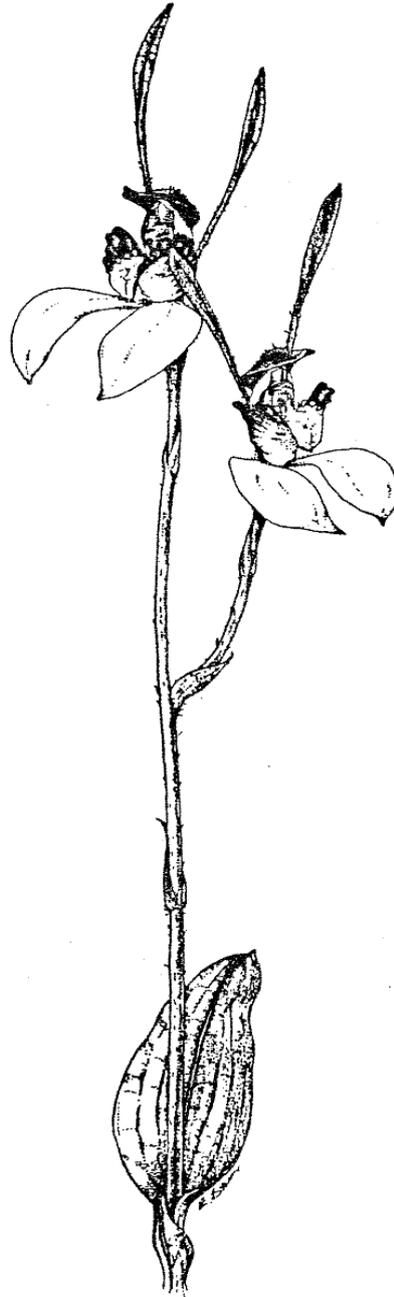


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

of

SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL



Caladenia menziesii R.Br.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 25 November 1986 at 8pm
St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington

This meeting is the last for this year and is a social event. Please bring a basket supper. Slides of the Spring Show and photo competition will be screened.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr C. Bower	Orange, N.S.W.
Miss J.D. Evans	Lower Mitcham, S.A.
Mr J. Edwards	Kensington Park, S.A.
Mr R.H. Edge	Hawthorndene, S.A.
Mrs R. McInnes	Rosewater, S.A.
Mr D.W. Murley	Ingle Farm, S.A.

REPORT OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

The main item of this meeting was a cultural segment with demonstrations of relevant techniques. Les Nesbitt demonstrated repotting procedures for terrestrial orchids and also tuber multiplication by tuber removal on *Diuris*. Kevin Western dealt with deflasking of seedlings and Wayne Harris dealt with methods of growing-on seedlings from community pots. Repotting and dividing of larger epiphytes was handled by Gordon Brooks.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY:

Pterostylis "Cutie", *P. ovata*, *P. boormanii*, *P. xerophila*, *P. biseta*, *P. setifera*, *P. aff. boormanii* W.A., *P. sp.* from Cobar, *P. plumosa*, *P. biseta*, *P. excelsa*, *P. rufa*, *P. pusilla*, *P. aff. boormanii* S.A., *Elythranthera emarginata*, *Caladenia aff. hastata* S.A., *C. leptochila*, *C. dilatata* mallee form, *C. dilatata*, *C. radiata*, *C. menziesii*, *C. dilatata x patersonii*, *Prasophyllum patens*, *P. macrostachyum* var *rigens*, *P. goldsackii*, *Spiranthes sinensis* subsp. *australis*, *Diuris punctata*, *D. punctata* var. *alboviolacea*, *D. aurea*, *D. sp.* W.A., *D. eancolata x longifolia*, *D. abbreviata x venosa*, *Sarcochilus hartmanii*, *S. falcatus*, *S. "Weinhart"*, *Dendrobium beckleri*, *D. teretifolium*, var. *fairfaxii* forma *aureum*, *D. kingianum*, *D. ruppianum*, *D. Ella* Victoria Leaney, *D. "Sunglow" x tetragonum*, *D. Gwen slade*, *D. Kipp's special*, *D. atroviolaceum*.

POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrial: *Diuris punctata*, grown by L & K Nesbitt
Epiphyte: *Sarcochilus hartmanii*, grown by E. Badman

POPULAR VOTE:

The *Sarcochilus hartmannii* was the best of 7 pots brought in by various members, this particular pot had many racemes of crystalline white flowers, which displayed themselves well, a credit to it's grower. It just goes to show, with care and attention we can grow epiphytes as well as our eastern states counterparts.

Les and Kay Nesbitt's *Diuris punctata* must be about the best form around although once again good culture has a lot to do with what a plant can produce for you, a potful of tall vigorous plants with large flowers displayed well was a joy to see, congratulations to the growers.

Diuris punctata 'Old Vic'

My association with this large flowered form of *Diuris punctata* began many years ago when I was sent one tuber from Victoria in exchange for a local species. When it grew and flowered I was most impressed and it is still the showiest *Diuris* that I have. It seldom multiplies if left alone but by various means the plant has been induced to multiply to the point where I now have over 100 plants. The best method of propagation is to pull tubers off in Spring.

The pot on display contained 7 plants, up to 380mm tall. Each plant carried 5-6 mauve flowers which are well arranged on the stem. The flowers are filled in and as large as I have seen with neutral sepals up to 85mm long, although other clones have ventral sepals over 100mm long. With good culture these plants get larger each year. I grow them in a 250mm (10") plantainer in a 50% shade cloth house in my standard soil mix of 40% soil, 45% sand and 15% peat moss plus a little blood and bone. I replot each summer into fresh soil as soon as the plants die down.

This orchid is easy to grow and it flowers freely. The tubers are palmate, or hand shaped, with up to 5 "fingers" on the bottom of very large tubers. Seedlings only have one finger and small plants have two. As the plant matures the tubers look more and more like a baby's hand. This clone comes up early and dies down late, giving a growing season of 8-9 months.

L. Nesbitt

ORCHID RESCUE DIG - BANGHAM

On Sunday, 9 November, about 12 members participated in a rescue dig near Bangham, south of Bordertown. We "townies" were fortunate in being joined by two South-East members from Lochaber and Biscuit Flat.

The weather was ideal, sunny and in the mid-twenties. The locality was brought to our attention by Wendy Rowley from Bangham who contacted the owners, who in turn supplied the Society with written permission to collect. The area was principally sclerophyll scrub with stringybark and pink gums dominating the upper story with *Banksia ornata* as the most prominent shrub. Ground conditions were ideal for digging with deep light grey to yellow slightly clayey sands.

Most orchid species were either in seed or identifiable by leaves only and this factor presented us with problems of location. Nevertheless all of us came back with good hauls of tubers, some of which will find their way into the tuber bank eventually. Perhaps the highlights were to find *Orthoceras strictum*, *Calochilus campestris* and *Thelymitra fuscolutea* in flower or in bud.

In all some twenty-two species were identified and no doubt more would be located earlier in the season. Thanks Wendy, for notifying us and guiding us on a most enjoyable day.

Orchids species identified include:

Acianthus exertus, *Calochilus campestris*, *Corybas* sp., *Caladenia carnea*, *C. carnea* var. *minor*, *C. deformis*, *C. patersonii*, *Diuris maculata*, *Lyperanthus nigricans*, *Leporella fimbriata*, *Microtis unifolia*, *Orthoceras strictum*, *Prasophyllum patens*, *P. nigricans*, *Pterostylis nana*, *P. plumosa*, *P. pedunculata*, *Thelymitra nuda*, *T. pauciflora*, *T. rubra*, *T. ixioides*, *T. fuscolutea*, *T. canaliculata*.

W. K. Harris

NATIVE ORCHIDS ON KANGAROO ISLAND

A Group of registrants to the 10th Australian Orchid Conference spent three days on Kangaroo Island as a pre-conference run.

On the 16th September, they were taken by bus to Kingscote to collect Mrs Ida Jackson, one of our local members, who introduced them to some of the orchids which abound there.

First was a visit to the Kingscote Folk Museum which is well worthwhile, so you can then appreciate the ingenuity of the local settlers of the early days who had, in their comparative isolation, to improvise with much of their farming equipment. There was a working demonstration of a eucalyptus still, a product for which the island is well-known.

Then it was on to the South Coast where, after a barbecue lunch, a walk into the scrub produced *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *P. alata* and *P. nana* in full flower, *Corybas despectans* and *C. dilatata* were seen in fruit, also *Acianthus reniformis* in bloom. The "Spider" orchids were particularly beautiful and the plentiful supply of flowers had all the photographers very busy. Noted were *Caladenia carnea*, *C. latifolia*, *C. filamentosa*, var. *filamentosa* and var. *bicalliata*.

The party then proceeded further westward but the weather was deteriorating and after weathering several heavy downpours, a further sortie produced *Caladenia dilatata*, *C. deformis* and *Diuris longifolia*. The party was also very interested in learning the names of the other flowers, especially the endemic. A further stop in some roadside scrub near Parndana promised much, though no orchids were seen but, to the delight of the group, a couple of echidnas were spotted.

It was a very interesting day for the visitors and they have again asked me to pass on their grateful thanks to their hostess for the day.

Neil Christoph

FIELD TRIP REPORT

11 OCTOBER 1986

Following a visit by ANOS Victoria to NOSSA in 1985, NOSSA was invited to make a reciprocal visit in October 1986. The invitation was gladly accepted by 8 members. Our first days outing took us to Anglesea, along the Great Ocean Road where a party of altogether 20 persons assembled at the Forrest Road turnoff. After introductions, our party dispersed into the bush and very

quickly the familiar call of "here's one" was heard, immediately drawing a group of people to gaze upon and photograph one of the new found treasures, usually followed by indepth discussion on the features, distribution etc. of the orchid in question. Some lovely specimens were found at this location, including a group of robust specimens of *Pterostylis plumosa*, a large patch of the normal coloured form *Diuris longifolia* and several single plants of the almost pure yellow form of the latter, several albino *Pterostylis nutans* drew much comment from those observing it for the first time. Numerous seedlings of *Prasophyllum elatum* present were no doubt the result of the large bushfire which ravaged the area in 1984.

After a thorough inspection of the area morning tea was taken and provided by ANOS Vic. for the visitors, giving us a sample of what was to come over the next two days, even a table cloth was quickly produced (after someone jocularly complained about the lack of it), giving the occasion a touch of refinement.

Our second stop, near Gum Flats Road, produced some excellent examples of *Caladenia patersonii*, *C. clavigera* and *C. cardiochila* all growing together in a small area with no evidence of hybridisation. A magnificent specimen of *Caladenia clavigera*, with three flowers, had us all on our knees to admire it's beauty. This performance was repeated a little further on when someone found *Lyperanthus nigricans* in flower, this had the camera bugs prostrate in no time at all and camera shutters could be heard clicking like badly fitting dentures while the rest of the party looked on amused at their antics, it almost seemed as if the solitary *Lyperanthus* was glowing with pride at all this attention.

The next location brought us to lunch and here our hosts provided a veritable feast of delicacies, a delight to gaze upon while preparation was in progress, and we were not disappointed when invited to help ourselves to what was spread before us. A most enjoyable lunch indeed, washed down with good Australian wine. A shower of rain did not dampen our spirits in any way but brought out a crop of umbrellas, while we finished putting away the remains.

To aid the digestion, a short walk was in order which turned up *Caladenia reticulata*, *Thelymitra fuscolutea* leaves and more of a dwarf form of *Caladenia carnea*. After much discussion it was pronounced to be *Caladenia pusilla*.

The next area visited - an area of low heath, did not produce anything new. *Caladenia deformis* is reputed to grow here in large numbers after bushfire has cleared away the undergrowth but none were found. More rain drove us on to an old sand mining area, a short distance away. One single flower of *Caleana major* alone would have been worth the visit however, numerous plants in leaf and in bud had us marvel at the tenacity of these orchids holding their own against trail bikes since 1979 when George and Thelma Spice first recorded their presence. *Lyperanthus nigricans* in flower made it the second sighting for the day. *Paracaleana minor* leaves only were recorded.

A kilometre down the road underneath the powerlines, *Thelymitra aristata*, *Caladenia patersonii*, and several other species were lurking in amongst the grass, but hybrid *Caladenia* reported here, were found just around the corner with houses encroaching upon their territory. A natural cross between *Caladenia patersonii* and *C. cardiochila* made a handsome flower indeed and these too were duly recorded on film.

One more stop at the Edna Bowman Reserve back in Anglesea closed the day.

The next morning, Sunday 12th October at 10.30am, saw us assemble at Courtney Road, Belgrave.

Seventeen persons decided to make the trip this time. *Pterostylis pedunculata* was immediately spotted at the parking area by eagle eyes, Paul Philips. The old Girl Guide area was our first objective for the day. 63 species have been recorded here in the past, however 22 is all our group managed, not a bad effort for one day, some notable species turned up by our party in the fairly thick undergrowth were *Calochilus* sp., *Pterostylis scabrada* in seed, a green and yellow *Caladenia patersonii*, both colour forms of *Diuris longifolia*, *Thelymitra ixioides* and two colour forms of *Lyperanthus suaveolens*.

We then moved on to the area owned by the proprietors of a large Circus. Here numerous leaves of *Cryptostylis leptochila* and *C. subulata*, growing often intermingled would make a visit in summer by Melbourne residents a worthwhile exercise, to view the plants in bloom. *Acianthus caudatus* in flower hidden amongst undergrowth was worth finding.

After lunch, while our hardworking hosts were doing the dishes, we were urged to look for *Chiloglottis gunnii*, reported to grow here, and a nice patch of them were found to the delight of us South Australians. *Pterostylis nutans* and *P. longifolia* rounded off a satisfying terrestrial lovers day.

Next stop, just to please the epiphyte growers amongst our group, was at Mary and Frank Luckhurst in Mitcham. Their garden, as well Glasshouse, is a delight to see and obviously a lot of care and attention to detail is the result of what is an outstanding collection of orchids, lovingly looked after by this couple. Frank specialises in *Dendrobium kingianum* and some floriferous specimens were on display, the result of selected breeding in some cases. An eye-opener to us Adelaidians is the way growers in Melbourne produce such healthy and well grown *Sarcochilus* species. It really makes these visits a worthwhile occasion, for much is learned from the way others cultivate their plants.

Our last stop, at Lois and Frank Pate, again proved how Melbourne growers excel with epiphytes. Frank and Lois grow numerous species of Australian, as well as exotic and once more beautifully kept plants were the order of the day. Thank you to both families for allowing us to visit their collections and partake of your hospitality.

The day finished at Helen and Barry Richards whom, under the direction of Lee Hayles, prepared and cooked a truly gourmet barbecue for us all present. It is obvious these wonderful hosts appreciate not only things beautiful to the eye, but also believe in enjoying good food and great wines that go with it, and stimulating conversation flowing from it.

An outstanding and most enjoyable weekend. Our thanks to those who organised it all, particularly George and Thelma Spice for taking us around your favourite orchid haunts. To Lee Hayles and Helen and Barry Richards for your organisation and hosting us all weekend. Again thank you all, it was magnificent.

LIST OF PLANTS SEEN DURING THE WEEKEND

FOREST ROAD

Pterostylis plumosa
 " *nutans*, normal
 " *nutans*, albino

Thelymitra antennifera
 " *rubra*
 " *flexuosa*
Prasophyllum elatum
Caladenia cardiochila
 " *patersonii*
 " *dilatata*
 " *menziesii*
 " *carnea*
Acianthus caudatus, seed
Diuris longifolia, normal and yellow form

GUM FLATS ROAD

Pterostylis parviflora, seed
 " *vittata*, seed
 " *nana*, seed
Thelymitra rubra and *ixioides*
Caladenia dilatata
 " *menziesii*
 " *cardiochila*
 " *clavigera*
 " *pusilla*
 " *patersonii*
 " *carnea*
Diuris longifolia, normal and yellow forms
Microtis sp., leaves
Glossodia major
Lyperanthus nigricans

LUNCH SPOT

Pterostylis plumosa
 " *longifolia*
Thelymitra flexuosa
 " *fuscolutea*, leaves
Caladenia reticulata
 " *carnea*
Calochilus sp., leaves

HEATH HILLSIDE

Thelymitra antennifera
 " *fuscolutea*, leaves
 " *flexuosa*
 " *ixioides*
Microtis sp., leaves

SAND QUARRY

Caleana major
Paracaleana minor
Glossodia major
Lyperanthus nigricans
Thelymitra antennifera
Diuris longifolia

SPOT UNDER POWER LINES

Pterostylis nana, seed
 " *vittata*, seed
 " *plumosa*

Thelymitra aristata
 " *flexuosa*
 " *rubra*
 " *ixioides*
 " *antennifera*
Caladenia dilatata
 " *cardiochila*
 " *patersonii*
Diuris longifolia

RADIO REPEATER STATION

Pterostylis plumosa
Thelymitra flexuosa
 " *carnea*
Caladenia dilatata
 " *patersonii*
 " *cardiochila*
 " *patersonii* x *cardiochila*
Diuris longifolia
 " *maculata*
Prasophyllum sp.

EDNA BROWN RESERVE ANGLESEA

Pterostylis nutans
 " *pedunculata*
Acianthus exertus
Microtis unifolia
Diuris longifolia
 " *maculata*
Caladenia dilatata, mallee form
 " *carnea*
 " *reticulata* var. *valida*
 " *cardiochila*
 " *latifolia*
Thelymitra ixioides

COURTNEY ROAD, BELGRAVE

Pterostylis nutans
 " *pedunculata*
 " *nana*
 " *parviflora*, seed
 " *scabrida*, seed
Caladenia carnea
 " *dilatata*
 " *patersonii*
Thelymitra sp.
 " *ixioides*
 " *antennifera*
 " *carnea*
Diuris longifolia, normal and yellow form
Glossodia major
Calochilus sp., bud
Acianthus sp., leaves
A. caudatus
Prasophyllum despectans, seed
Microtis sp., leaf
Lyperanthus suaveolens

CIRCUS PROPERTY AREA, COURTNEY ROAD

Pterostylis sp., leaves
 " *nutans*
 " *longifolia*
Caladenia patersonii
 " *carnea*
 " *menziesii*, leaves
Diuris longifolia, both forms
Glossodia major
Acianthus caudatus
Lyperanthus suaveolens
Prasophyllum elatum, leaf
Chiloglottis gunnii
Thelymitra pauciflora, bud
 " *ixioides*
Cryptostylis subulata, bud
 " *leptochila*, leaves

G. Nieuwenhoven

TUBER BANK, 1986

The December Journal will publish a list and details of this season's tubers available to members. To enable this list to be as accurate as possible, information of species and quantities members are prepared to donate are requested. Only information is required at present, collection of donations will be arranged within the next two months.

All species are required, no donation is too small, any number is greatly appreciated. The Tuber Bank helps the Society to raise funds, as well as helping members to build a better collection of terrestrial orchids.

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- or at monthly meetings.

STOP PRESS, "PARACALEANA AFFINITY NIGRITA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA"

On November 2nd this year, a little broad-leaved duck orchid with black-tipped orange labellum was found in damp sand around a swamp near Mt. Taylor. on Kangaroo Island. This unnamed species was first found in S.A. in 1967 by Miss F.M. Finck (in Cox's Scrub Cons. Park), but not included in the South Australia Flora, due to some doubt about the origin of this plant. I would like to apologise to anyone concerned for doubting the validity of this earlier discovery of a 'most unusual orchid' - I wonder, are there any more duck orchids out there?!

Bob Bates

NOTES ON THE CULTIVATION OF COOL-GROWING SARCANTHINAE SPECIES

(Part 1)

In cultivation, the temperature of Australian Sarcanthinae species can be broken into two broad groups. The lithophytes, *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, *S. fitzgeraldii* and *S. hartmannii*, form a small, natural group with quite similar requirements. These orchids generally do well in cultivation and it is not

unusual to see large specimen plants which have been obviously nurtured and grown on for many years. On the other hand, the true epiphytes are a large and diverse group with differing environmental requirements. Some are relatively easy to grow whilst others are virtually impossible to keep alive for any reasonable length of time.

S. ceciliae, *S. fitzgeraldii* and *S. hartmannii* are commonly and, I think, most successfully grown in terracotta pots, in a gravel/bark mix, consisting of about 60% bark (fir, pine or casuarina) and 40% gravel. The addition of a small amount of cymbidium compost as an organic component to add "body" to the mix is also recommended by some growers, and this may be particularly applicable in the case of *S. hartmannii*. There are many variations one can make to the mix composition. Some growers add charcoal, perlite, scoria, polystyrene, etc. in varying amounts and combinations. As long as the mix drains freely and contains no toxic material, it should be suitable. It should have some moisture holding capacity and should also have a structure which allows for good air movement through the mix.

In the bush, these species usually grow in situations where their roots are partially or completely buried under layers of humus on rock ledges or trapped in crevices. Ferns and mosses are often present and the orchid roots penetrate into this rich layer to seek nutrients, water and protection from extremes of weather. Accordingly, these species are heavier feeders than the epiphytic types and should be fed regularly, particularly during their peak growing times, spring and autumn. *S. hartmannii* in particular, can almost be grown in an open soil mix and where conditions are ideal will develop thick, succulent white roots nearly as thick as one's little finger. I have grown a plant of *S. hartmannii* in a potful of pure leaf mulch from the bush and it did very well for some years until the mulch broke down and I had to repot.

A technique I have used over recent years with these lithophytes, is to top dress the pot with natural leaf mulch from the bush. This mulch I break up a little by simply crushing it in my hand, and then I sprinkle it on the medium surface to form a layer no more than 5mm thick, extending from the base of the plant out to the rim of the pot. Anything more than 5mm could result in a reduction of air circulation through the pot, as well as clogging of the medium. This is especially useful where the medium used is coarse and open or where the major component is gravel or blue metal. As it breaks down further, the leaf mulch is washed down into the mix, a little each time the plant is watered. This provides supplementary feeding and also some protection for the newly emerging roots. I have noticed that these new roots like to grow into and through the leaf mulch.

Light levels required for these species are somewhat more than most of the epiphytic species but adequate shading must be provided, especially during the summer. The rule for these orchids is to grow them in the shade and flower them in the sun. What this means in practice is to keep them quite shaded following flowering through summer and autumn, and then increase light levels from late autumn until flowering again. *S. ceciliae* is the most light tolerant of the three and *S. fitzgeraldii* the least light tolerant.

Watering must be carefully monitored, as an excess over too long a period will cause rotting or die-back. I feel it is better to keep the plants on the dry side during hot weather to avoid the problem of "steaming" or "boiling" which sometimes occurs on very hot days, especially if air circulation is not too good. In summer, I water only in the evening, after the sun has gone off the orchid house, so that plants will stay damp overnight but will have dried off by next morning. Do not try to keep the compost wet during summer; aim instead to keep the entire plant cool and in a well ventilated position. You

will, of course, need to water regularly during summer to keep the compost from becoming totally dry, but, too many growers overdo this. Once the weather cools a little, usually by late February, then water and feed heavily. Drainage through the pot must be good; remember, these orchids grow naturally on rock ledges and cliff faces where excess water cannot accumulate. From this time through until the beginning of winter these plants will make their most sustained growth. The root tips will be completely extended and the leaves will shoot up.

With pot culture there is always danger that the compost at the centre of the pot will remain too wet, impeding root growth and causing premature breakdown of the medium. This is a particular problem with larger containers used for specimen plants. Most growers make a habit of crocking the bottom 1/3 of their pots, usually with broken chunks of terracotta or large river pebbles. One very effective way of overcoming this problem, especially with larger containers, is to place an empty, upturned pot in the bottom of the main pot and to hill the potting medium around this second pot. This results in a large open air space in the centre of the pot, allowing excellent drainage and improved air circulation. A terracotta slot-pot is well suited to this purpose.

Once the cold weather is really upon us ease up on the watering but do not come to an abrupt halt. These orchids can remain on the damp side during winter; they certainly do so in the bush. Take care when watering to ensure they are not kept wet and maintain good air circulation. They will continue to grow at a reduced rate during winter so continue feeding from time to time and, as previously mentioned, increase light levels. Protect from frost in winter for this is a killer. Simple cold will not bother them and plants in my collection have been down to -2 degrees C without any ill effects under fibreglass protection. As winter comes to an end and flowering becomes imminent, increase watering to keep up with increasing temperatures. If you are grooming your plants for the showbench try to keep buds dry and air circulation good, as buds will spot readily. After flowering, as the weather warms up, keep plants cool and shaded and beware of overwatering if the heat comes early. If we are blessed with a cool, damp spring, then these orchids will respond by making good root and leaf growth during this period and will continue to do so until the hot weather arrives and slows them down.

(To be continued)

Mike Harrison

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