

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
FOUNDED 1946. A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL.

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APRIL 2023

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 28 April, 2023.**

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

PRESIDENT

Lina Pacca
Ph. 0419 917 487

SECRETARY

Harry Ashton
harry.ashton@live.com.au
Ph. 0412 403 696

TREASURER

Sheelagh Harman
sheelagh4@bigpond.com

REGISTRAR TEAM

Malcolm Davis, Enid Chelva and
Alan Rowe

BULLETIN EDITOR

Murray Baker

FACEBOOK PAGE

Kirsty Bayliss

POSTAL ADDRESS

58 Gladstone Rd
Leeming 6149

www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

www.facebook.com/orchidsWA

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

CHOICES OF MEDIA

PRESENTER: TARA PEETERS

MAY MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 5th

General Meeting: Friday 26th

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Vale Jim Baylis

For decades, Jim was a stalwart of OSWA. Jim was always cheerful, always happy to chat to members old and new. With Kaye, Jim was always amongst the first to arrive at meetings, and was always last to leave, ensuring that everything was packed away first. It was the same for our shows, which would not have worked without him. Jim was amongst the first to arrive to set up shows, and was always the last to leave, but his work was not confined to the days of the show—he would go to the shed the day before the show to collect the trailer and the necessary props, and take the trailer back to the shed afterwards, cheerfully and without complaint. At every show setup, he would carry heavy, awkwardly-shaped particleboard stands and other props to and from the trailer and set them up in the display as directed by Kaye. Often Jim contributed the most orchids to our shows, even though his *Paphiopedilum* Greyhound plants were stolen from displays at a shopping centres on at least two occasions. He did these things not because of any great desire to win prizes for Best Cymbidium or Grand Champion, but simply because he wanted to share his orchids with everyone and make OSWA's shows the best that they could be. As well as being generous with his time, he was generous with his plants. Many members have plants gifted by Jim in their collections...I have at least three: a *Paph* Greyhound (gifted not stolen), a *Zygopetalum mackayi*, and a *Cymbidium* Pepita).



As well as his work in our club, Jim was a member of the Orchid Judging Panel of WA, and for decades would judge at monthly meetings for various clubs, judge at shows for OSWA and other clubs in Perth, and often trek to regional WA, judging at Geraldton, Bunbury, and Albany. It is impossible to write about Jim without writing about Kaye. Jim and Kaye worked together for OSWA for well over 50 years. Jim served on OSWA's committee for decades, and was Kaye's number 1 supporter during her many terms as OSWA president. Kaye's report to the AGM at the end of each of her terms as President was always concluded with a moving tribute to Jim for his love and support.

Over the last few years, Jim was unable to keep up his work for OSWA. Despite his failing health, Jim lived with dignity, supporting OSWA for as long as he could, never complaining, but keeping cheerful even as his health deteriorated. Jim passed away on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday, and just short of Jim and Kaye's 60th Wedding Anniversary. OSWA is what it is today in no small part due to Jim and Kaye's work over the last 50 years. Our club will not be the same without Jim, but we will always fondly remember his endless cheerfulness, friendship, and dedication to our Society.

Rest in Peace Jim.

General News

Birthdays:

April 6th Eva Gani; 7th Rosemary McGrath; 10th Bernadette Campbell; 12th Karen Carless;
13th Lynne Guerini; 29th Ian Duncan

May: 1st Katia Stefanova; 4th Jacqui Bateman; 7th Dorothy Walton; 8th Calvin Hisco; 9th Ellen
Dixon; 10th Colleen Cortenbach; 26th Ruchie Pototanon

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery & may you soon be well.

Thank you from Kaye

Kaye wishes to thank all members and friends who attended the farewell to Jim on the 17th of April. In Kaye's words "It was beautiful that so many of our orchid family were in attendance". Thank you also to members and friends who sent cards or messages of sympathy. It was a great comfort to Kaye to have support from so many friends at this difficult time.

Thank you Lynn

Thank you to Lynn for kindly hosting a home visit this month and generously sharing her orchid culture tips with all who attended. Lynn demonstrated quick and simple techniques for mounting orchids and straightening wayward growths in cattleyas, amongst other things. All who attended enjoyed good company and learnt something new.

Some of Lynn's work using flexible ties to straighten wayward growths in cattleyas is shown below. The picture on the left shows a cattleya that has had its leaves gently tied together with a flexible shade cloth-type tie. The leaves were originally splayed all about so that the plant looked quite messy. The picture on the right shows the same plant some months later, with the tie removed. After being trained by the tie, the leaves are now more close to vertical, so the plant is quite compact. (In the picture on the right, some butterfly clips are partially visible—they are being used to continue to train a couple of wayward growths into more vertical positions by clipping them to arms of the pot hanger.)



If you can't find shade cloth-type ties to use, strips of stocking or strips of the fishnet-type bags that are often used for packaging fruit and vegetables can be used instead. Lynn also uses squishy plastic netting that she salvaged from some sort of shower sponge for this purpose. It is best to do manipulations like this in the afternoon, when the plant is warm and the growths are not too stiff. The same applies when manipulating racemes for staking. If manipulations are done in the morning, particularly on cold winter mornings, when growths tend to be stiffer, there is a higher risk of snapping a leaf, bulb, or raceme. [Aside: well known Perth orchid enthusiast Graham Bowden has explained this situation as being akin to wilting. In the morning when the plant is most likely to be full of moisture, its cells are fat and juicy and its tissue is bloated and stiff. During the heat of the day, the plant loses moisture through transpiration, so its cells are not so fat and juicy and the tissue is not so stiff...it becomes more flexible, just as a plant tends to wilt on a hot day.]

Thank you Jacqui, Maggie, and Trevor

Thank you to Jacqui, Maggie, and special guest Trevor for their presentation at Bunnings in Ellenbrook. Apparently the presenters, the 20 or so members of the public and the 5 Bunnings staff who attended all had a great time. This type of event is also good PR for our club...Bunnings has now called on us to do several presentations in the last few months, each of which came with a donation of vouchers for our club.

Quality Plant Auctions

If you've been too successful at growing and dividing your special plants and now need to make space in your shadehouse, consider bringing a plant or two in for a quality plant auction. Last month two plants were put up for quality plant auctions—Harry's division of *Cattleya lobata* 'Jenny' AM AOS fetched \$55

even though it was not in flower, while Rosemary's specimen size *Cattleya bowringiana* in flower fetched \$90! Plants to be put up for quality plant auction should be flowering size, preferably in flower, and free of signs of pest or disease. If you bring in a plant to be offered for quality plant auction at a meeting, see Harry or Lina before the start of the meeting to bring it to their attention and see how to proceed. Remember, no commissions are taken at quality plant auctions, all proceeds go to the seller.

Donations Table

Prior to the pandemic we used to run a donations table, usually set up on the table to the right as you enter the meeting room, where members could bring items to donate to other members. Members who took items from the donations table would, if they so desired, make a small donation to our club. Donations included gardening magazines (sometimes orchid-themed), keikis, unpotted divisions, cuttings of other plants (especially cacti and succulents), seeds, lemons, handy polystyrene boxes, pot trays, and so on. Perhaps it's time to get the Donations Table going again? Donors de-clutter, recipients get cheap or free stuff!

Flinders Square Autumn Show — Wednesday 10 May - Saturday 13 May

This year, for the first time in quite a few years, we will be having an Autumn Show (10-13 May), at Flinders Square Shopping Centre, Wiluna Street, Yokine.

- *Loading the ute for the show:* OSWA Shed, Neil McDougall Park, Como, date and time to be announced. Access to the shed is via the driveway opposite number 27 Clydesdale Street.
- *Show Setup happens on Wednesday 10th May*, from about 5:30 pm; entries received from 6 pm; judging to start at around 7:15 pm.
- *Show open to public Thursday 11 May to Saturday 13 May.* Plant sales daily.

Since we haven't had an autumn show for a few years, we're probably all out of the habit of preparing orchids for showing at this time of year. It's not too late to look about the shadehouse for plants coming into flower in time for our Flinders Square Autumn Show. Do a bit of staking if needed, take steps to protect the developing flowers from damage by the elements, and move plants to a flowering house or some other covered area if need be. Please make a special effort to have your plants ready for this show, for judging and/or the display. If you plan to bring plants for the display, show, or sales table, please do not water them on the day you are going to bring them in.

Roster, Sales Sheets, Entry Cards etc will be available at the April General Meeting. Sales sheets can also be downloaded from the "Info for Members" section of the OSWA website. If you don't have perfect plants to enter in the competition, please consider bringing them in for the display—the public will still appreciate them! If you don't have any plants for display, please consider coming along anyway, to help set up and pack up the display, or look after the display and chat to members of the public. Also, please consider signing up for a shift or three in the roster to look after our display. No special skills are required, just enthusiasm for sharing your love of orchids with the public. There is a coffee shop, a patisserie, a sushi place and a pizza place in the shopping centre in case you need sustenance.

OSWA Display at the Koi Show: Sunday 21 May, Wanneroo Showgrounds, 10 am - 2 pm

OSWA will have a display at the Koi Show again this year. The venue is Wanneroo Showground, Ariti Avenue, Wanneroo. As well as our display, there will be a display by the Bonsai Society, there will be food and drink trucks, and, of course, there will be koi. This event is not your usual orchid event but the koi are pretty interesting and it is fun to see folks as enthusiastic and fussy and nerdy about fish as we are about orchids. Many of the koi enthusiasts like orchids too. The event is free and open to everyone. As events go, this one is pretty simple for OSWA, we just need some plants in flower and a couple of volunteers to set up and watch over a small display, sell a few raffle tickets, and pack up at the end of the event. If you haven't been involved in an OSWA show previously, the Koi Show is a nice relaxing one to cut your teeth on. More info at the April general meeting.

An Orchid Conference for Perth in 2025?

It appears that the Perth International Orchid Fair, which was proposed to be held in 2024, will not proceed. Since the PIOF was first mooted, the conference scene in Perth has changed significantly, to

the point where venues suitable for a major international event have become too expensive and projected numbers of conference registrants have become too small for an international conference to be viable. Instead, OrchidsWA is now considering holding a national (Australian Orchid Council) Conference in 2025. There is support for a national conference in OrchidsWA at the committee level, but organising such an event requires a lot of work. It is not clear how much enthusiasm the wider orchid community in Perth has for hosting a conference. Obviously a conference cannot proceed if members of the orchid community don't step up to help with the planning and actual running of the conference.

There have been a few conferences in Perth during my time in OSWA. There have been three "WA Orchid Spectacular Conference and Show" events, held in Fremantle, Belmont, and most recently Scarborough (2017, at the Rendezvous Hotel, <https://www.facebook.com/waorchidspectacular2017/>). In 2012 Perth hosted an AOC Conference at Burswood Casino. Personally, I found each of these events to be immensely enjoyable. These events included orchid shows (with judging), displays, talks by local and visiting experts, orchid growers from all Perth and regional WA clubs, and interstate growers as well (especially at the AOC conference). Tours after the conferences to see WA native orchids were organised for conference attendees. Most importantly, there were *many* vendors in attendance, from interstate and from overseas. Overseas vendors brought flasks to sell, while interstate vendors also brought flasks and in some cases flowering-size plants as well, giving Perth growers an opportunity to buy orchids that were rarely or not previously available in WA. Vendors usually presented a talk, sometimes about species orchids in the wild, other times about orchid culture.

Would you like to see an Orchid Conference in Perth in 2025? If so, what sort of event would you want? A large event like an AOC Conference, a medium-sized event, like an Orchid Spectacular, or a smaller event like the Perth Orchid Fair or the Intersociety Orchid Workshop and Display? Do you want to see lectures on orchids in the wild or in cultivation? Are you interested in buying orchid flasks, or flowering-size plants? Most importantly, would you be willing to help with organisation and running of such an event, and if so, what would you be able to do? Please have a think about this stuff...if enough of us are submit our ideas now, and are willing to devote our time and effort to help plan and run an event of some sort, we have a chance to shape the proposed conference into something that we actually want and will enthusiastically support.

Events calendar 2023

Flinders Square Autumn Show: 10-13 May, at Flinders Square Shopping Centre, Yokine.

Koi Show: Sunday 21 May, Wanneroo Showgrounds (An interesting event, something different!)

Intersociety Display and Workshop: 4-6 August, at Manning Community Centre.

Kardinya Spring Show: 30 August - 2 September, to be confirmed.

Perth Orchid Fair: 2-3 September (setup on Friday 1 September; at John Septimus Roe School).

Potting Workshop: Sunday 15 October, at MSCAC.

Late Flowering Orchid Display: Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 November, at MSCAC

Bentley Pines Christmas Dinner: date to be determined.

Floraplant Nursery Visit: date to be determined.

December General Meeting: Friday 8 December (two weeks earlier than usual, only date available).

After several years in which the Kardinya Spring Show was OSWA's only show, this year we will also have an Autumn Show, which will be held at Flinders Square Shopping Centre in Yokine. Unfortunately the Perth Garden and Outdoor Living Festival has been scheduled for the same week as OSWA's Autumn Show, so we will not be involved with the Festival this year.

GENERAL CULTURE NOTES FOR DJERAN (April/May)

Djeran is the Noongar season where we start to see cooler temperatures and higher humidity, which provides some relief for our orchids, many of which can be quite stressed from Perth's hot dry summers. Unfortunately the pleasant weather is also favoured by pests, and a high degree of vigilance must be exercised to ensure outbreaks are proactively managed. Moisture and mold resistant snail pellets (yes, the more expensive ones) should be applied—snail activity increases with rainfall, as developing flower buds are a tasty snack. The milder weather also allows us to remove any 'additional' shade-cloth that may have been added in summer, and as rainfall begins, some protection from rain may be required for

orchids coming into flower, and those orchids that require a dry rest through the cooler months. Some orchids slow down growth or go completely dormant as temperatures drop, and for these orchids, frequency of watering and fertilizing should be reduced, but orchids in active growth definitely still need feeding! It is a good time of the year to begin repotting, as the pleasant conditions help plants cope with the stress of being divided or repotted.

For detailed notes on culture of Cymbidium, Cattleya, and Paphiopedilum orchids during Djeran, see the January bulletin. For general info on particular types of orchids, refer to the culture notes found at http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids.html.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.): Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 24 March 2023

Welcome: 7:30 pm

Apologies and attendance: as per register.

Minutes: Moved Jacqui B., seconded Enid C that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Presentations/demos: Harry : Spotlight on a Member, and Orchids of Madagascar

Correspondence: 23/2 from GCA, forms; 23/2 from OWA re papers; 23/2 to/from Orchidup/Manning Centre/EziGro, letter of support for grant applications; 24/2 to/from Shona re dates of Koi Society Show, likely May 21; 24/2 to/from WA Spitroast confirming our booking for ISDW dinner; 25/2 Horticultural Council minutes; 2/3 to Charmaine/Trevor/John confirming they are happy to be removed from physical postage list; 2/3 to MSAC confirming we are able to use the hall with the TV for future meetings; 24/3 to EziGro re increasing raffle prizes; 4/3 to OJPWA re Show Dates; 4/3 to/from Lynn re home visit in April; 5/3 to Ron re Den bigibbum presentation; 6/3 to/from signage companies re quotes/orders; 6/3 from COCWA confirming LFOD dates and informal RSVP to ISDW; 4/3 to Merrill confirming she has certificates for the Autumn Show ; 7/3 from GCA, awards info; 7/3 from WJOS, apology for ISDW; 9/3 to/from Flinders re, Autumn show planning; 9/3 to/from Colberne re rosettes; 15/3 from Trudi S re identifying orchids; 17/3 from Murray re Neutrog has arrived; 18/3 from Bunnings Ellenbrook re, Orchid Presentation on 5th April; 20/3 from OJPWA re ISDW enquiry ; 21/3 from Adrian re SOSWA ISDW registration; 21/3 to/from Have a Go News re advertising; 22/3 from City of South Perth, grant application query.

Business arising from correspondence: Neutrog order has arrived

Moved Harry A seconded Nantha L that the business arising from correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports: Nil

Financial report: Treasurer report deferred until next meeting due to apology

General Business:

- **Quality Plant Auctions:** As mentioned in the bulletin, OSWA is introducing auctions to help keep quality plants within the orchid growing community. All proceeds from these auctions go directly to the grower. If you have a quality orchid that you would like considered for the April meeting, please let the secretary know. Plants auctioned off at the March meeting were (1) Cattleya lobata 'Jenny' AM AOS – a small division of the concolor form of this lovely Brazilian species, won by Charmaine for \$55, and (2) Cattleya bowringiana (large specimen plant) – large, flowering sized specimen of this central American species, which happened to be in flower, won by Charmaine for \$90.
- **New Grower Incentive Scheme Presentation:** New OSWA members are encouraged to bench plants at our monthly meetings. Members in the second, third and fourth year as OSWA members collect points from benching plants, and at the end of the year the grower in each year with the most 'points' will be awarded a quality, flowering sized plant from the OSWA stockpile. Congratulations to Keng Leow, awarded a Cattleya Dream Trader that should flower in the next month or so, and Alan Rowe, who awarded a beautiful large soft cane dendrobium that should flower in late spring.
- **Garden City Plastics Order:** club looking at placing an order. Feel free to have a look at the website and if you would like to bulk order something, let Harry know by the end of February (their stock is subject to having adequate numbers of orders so no guarantees that they will actually have stock!)
- **Home Visit:** April 16th Lynn Brooks residence 10am-12, please bring finger food and a chair if you plan to sit.
- **Bunnings Presentation** April 5th Bunnings Ellenbrook
- **Flinders Autumn Show:** We are having an autumn show this year at Flinders' Shopping Centre on May 10-13th – so please keep the dates free, fertilize those autumn flowering orchids and consider what divisions you may have available for the sales table!
- **ISODW 2023:** The winning theme is "Yesterday Today and Tomorrow" – more details to come!
- **Events calendar 2023**
 - Bunnings Ellenbrook Orchid Presentation- April 5th, 10am
 - Lynn home visit – April 16th, 10am
 - Flinders' Autumn Show May 10-13th
 - Koi Show date TBC
 - Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop August 4-6

Perth Orchid Fair September 1-3
 Kardinya Spring Show August 29- September 3
 Potting Workshop October 15th
 Late Flowering Orchid Display November 11-12
 Bentley Pines TBC
 Flora Plant Visit TBC
 December meeting date 8th of December (only date we could get)

Raffle: Patricia, Keng, Keng, Rosemary, Lynn, Donna, Nantha, Arnold, Katia, Annette, Dawn, Helen

Open popular vote: Mal was a surprised winner of the popular vote with an unknown dendrobium- but it's a beautifully grown specimen plant! Mal talks about the importance of being patient when growing these dendrobiums, as they only put up one growth per year. Mal talks about how this is the best flowering in 10 years of growing the plant. Mal fertilizers this plant gently, and avoids putting anything too strong on the plant.

Novice popular vote: Lynn Brooks with Cattleya CG Roebling- Lynn talks about this orchid being one that has a tendency to grow horizontal pseudobulbs. Lynn talks about the importance of straightening the bulbs to ensure flowers are best presented. Lynn highlighted that she has a home visit coming up and would be happy to show people how she stakes the plants!

Door Prize: Linda G

Judges Choice: Courtney R with Cattleya Fitz Eugene Dixon 75 points

Best Cymbidium: Helen Stretch with Cymbidium dayanum alba

Meeting Closed at 9:10 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (MARCH, 2023)

(Note: Plants must have been owned by the grower for at least 6 months prior to entry in Monthly Meetings and Shows)

OPEN

1A	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
1B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya Angel Bells</i> 'Suzie' AM/AOS
1C	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya Fitz Eugene Dixon</i>
1D	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya Chief Gem</i> 'Red Jewel'
1F	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Epicattleya Siam Jade</i> 'Ontario'
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya (guttata var. leopoldii x purpurata var. sanguinea</i> 'Mentzii')
		3	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya Mark Jones x Cattleya Katherine Clarkson</i>
2A	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Cymbidium dayanum alba</i>
3D	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphilopedilum Ky So</i>
4B	(1)	1	Malcolm Davis	<i>Dendrobium Unknown</i>
4D	(1)	1	Malcolm Davis	<i>Dendrobium Unknown</i>
5A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Phalaenopsis equestris</i>
6D	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Miltassia Charles M Fitch</i>
8A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrobium biggibum</i> 'CC1'
10B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrochilum macranthum</i>
11A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium Noirmont</i>



Photo at right: Best Cymbidium of the night, *Cymbidium dayanum alba*, grown by Helen Stretch.

NOVICE

15A	(1)	3	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
15C	(2)	1	Dawn Fathers	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
		2	Dawn Fathers	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
15D	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya</i> CG Roebling 'Blue Indigo' x <i>Cattleya gaskelliana</i> x <i>Cattleya pupurata</i>
15F	(1)	2	Enid Chelva	<i>Epidendrum</i> Unknown
18C	(1)	2	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Dendrobium</i> Unknown
21A	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
24A	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Dendrochilum latifolium</i> var. <i>macranthum</i>

Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy): *Cattleya* Fitz Eugene Dixon grown by Courtney Rogash, 75 Points.

Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy): *Cymbidium dayanum alba* grown by Helen Stretch, 70 Points.

Open popular vote: *Dendrobium* unknown grown by Malcolm Davis.

Novice popular vote: *Cattleya* CG Roebling 'Blue Indigo' x *Cattleya gaskelliana* x *Cattleya pupurata*, grown by Lynn Brooks.

From the March General Meeting...**Open Popular Vote**

Dendrobium unknown.
(Malcolm Davis)

**Novice Popular Vote**

Cattleya CG Roebling 'Blue Indigo' x
Cattleya gaskelliana x *Cattleya pupurata*.
(Lynn Brooks)



A



B



C



D



E

- [A] *Dendrochilum latifolium* var. *macranthum* (Jacqui Bateman)
- [B] *Cattleya* Fitz Eugene Dixon (Courtney Rogasch)
- [C] *Cattleya* (*guttata* var. *leopoldii* x *purpurata* var. *sangueniea* 'Mentzii') (Courtney Rogasch)
- [D] *Cattleya* (Mark Jones x Katherine Clarkson) (Harry Ashton)
- [E] *Epidendrum* unknown (Enid Chelva)
- [F] *Vanda* unknown (Jacqui Bateman)
- [G] *Cattleya* unknown (Dawn Fathers)
- [H] *Miltassia* Charles M Fitch (Helen Stretch)
- [I] *Paphiopedilum* Ky So (Howard Tan)



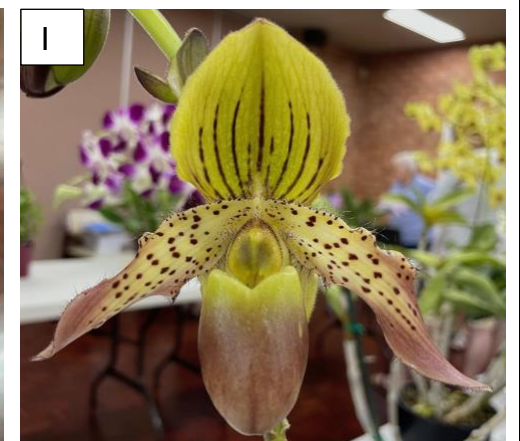
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