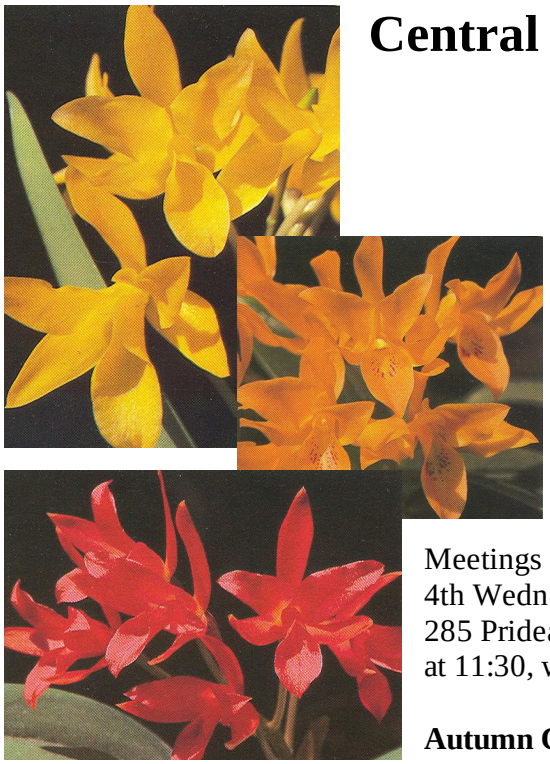

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Newsletter October 2005

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Meetings are held September through June on the Saturday before the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Community Services Building, 285 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo, in the Maffeo Auditorium, doors open at 11:30, with the business meeting starting at 12:00 noon.

Autumn Colours with Cattleya Herbert Osterreich

Coming Meeting Dates:

2005 October 22nd, November 19th, December 10th
2006 January 21, February 18, March 18, April 22, May 20, June24, September 23, October 21, November 18, December 9

Program for October 22th

Orchids Not Usually Seen In Collections

With Terry Kennedy

Coming Events:

Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale, Fort Langley Oct.22-23, 2005 Fort Langley Community Hall, 9167 Glover Rd., Fort Langley
Victoria Orchid Society Show and Sale, University of Victoria Student Union Building March 2006
CVIOS Show and Sale, Country Club Centre, April 6 –9, 2006
Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale, Richmond Curling Club, April 28-30th , 2006

Editorial:

Well here we area again and Fall has definitely arrived with it' wind and showers and leaves in the gutters. Please note the meeting dates for 2006 above and mark your calendars as soon as you get the 2006 editions.

We have a first happening in November. The CVIOS has never had two of our members decide that they wanted to wed each other and join their collections. Well if you have not heard Nan Wilson and Harry Johnson will be married on November 12th. They shared the news with those of us at the

summer picnic and Nan was flashing her new ring. We wish them all the happiness in the world and I hope their growing strategies fit nicely together in one greenhouse. They both have sizable collections of wonderfully grown plants so we will just have to watch the show table over time.

All the shade cloth should be off your greenhouses by now and the glass etc. of any growing areas cleaned to let the maximum light through as it weakens with our shortening length of daylight. The Ecuagenera plants were in great shape and there have been some flowerings and buddings and some sound new growth. Remember to get your orders from our November speaker in at the October meeting. I will be at the FVOS Show in Fort Langley so please give any orders to Mina. I hope you all got your orders into Terry Kennedy on time if you wanted plants from her list.

At the November meeting we will discus where we might want to place a spring order. We have a few permits open still so we do have a choice. We can always get new permits if you so desire.

Cheers Mike

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General Meeting Sept 24/05

President Vivian Heinsalu called the meeting to order at 12:00; present: 60 members, 3 guests

Minutes June 18/04: Motion to adopt by Conrad Thomas, seconded by Dora Glover; carried.
Treasurer's Report: For Sept 1/04 – Aug 31/05 presented by Mina Philips; moved by Jerry Suffolk to accept, seconded by Gary Forbes.
Executive Committee: Meeting held today; content will be discussed throughout the meeting.

Committee Reports:
Membership: Ralph Kirby reminded members to complete membership renewal forms
Program: Harry Johnson is away
Refreshments: 4 volunteers are required per meeting; if no volunteers come forward, you may be "voluntold" (we have 4 see below)
50/50 & Draw: Lots of plants available
Newsletter: Mike Miller asked members who have not received their newsletter to contact him. For those who receive newsletter via the Post, Mike has lists of orchids available from vendors as it too expensive to copy and mail. Mike also reminded members when completing the membership renewal form to sign the consent for publishing your name and address in the membership list (this is a required by the new privacy legislation)
Library: Mike deLeur will report next meeting
Shows: The CVIOS AOS show will be held April 6-9/06

New Business:
1. Sound System: Gary Forbes provided options: 1) hands-free system $800; 2) second hand ~$400, if members have any information or contacts, call Gary; 3) non-hands-free ~$300; 4) rent $35 per meeting
2. Fraser Valley Show: Oct 22-23 on Glover Road, Fort Langley. Volunteer is required to take over the display on behalf of the club; if you are interested, call any member of the executive. Details of how to collect plants can be determined through emails. (Laurie volunteered)
3. Speaker, Ivan Portilla has provided a copy of today's talk that can be signed out of library
4. Show table: Presented by Ivan Portilla and Mike Miller
5. Program: Orchids of Equador.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Goodies for the October meeting will be supplied by:

Marian Dewar, Doreen Fraser, Pat King, Teresa Hosak

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The following is an article requested by the BCOC

How Much Time Will It Take To Become An AOS Judge?

For a person who wishes to become an AOS judge, all the different requirements can be found, listed in the AOS Handbook on Judging, 11th ed. Here, I shall briefly outline only the requirements on persons' time in their endeavours towards becoming fully accredited AOS Judges.

Pre-Student or Clerk Status:

In order to let the other judges from your center get to know you, it is recommended that you attend every monthly judging for one year. These twelve visits will allow the personnel at your centre to evaluate your sincerity and abilities.

Student Judge:

Once your application to become a student judge has been approved, you are again encouraged to attend the twelve monthly judgings, go to as many orchid shows as is possible and attend the two annual business meetings and twelve hours training seminars. These are usually held in conjunction with the regular judgings.

Depending on your progress, you may go through your student judge period in as short a time as three years or as long as five years.

Probationary Judge:

After the judges at the centre have voted on your advancement to probationary status, you again should attend all twelve monthly judgings, go to many shows and attend seminars and business meetings, as before. Again, three years is the minimum time and five years the maximum number of years as probationary judge.

Once the judges at your centre have voted affirmatively to recommend your advancement to fully accredited status, this recommendation will then be passed on to the Judging Committee and after it has been approved there, you will be a:

Fully Accredited AOS Judge.

Your time will not be your own, even then. Because of the ever-changing nature of modern orchid hybrids and the great numbers and diversity of our orchids, each judge is considered to be in training all the time.

The total minimum times a judge must attend judgings is eight times per year, of which four times must be at the home centre, the others may be during shows or at some different judging centres. The two annual business meetings and the twelve hours of seminars must be attended by every judge.

Yes – it will take at least 7½ years (and can be up to 11½) to become an accredited AOS judge. And then the real work begins.

Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander, Accredited AOS Judge May, 2003

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November Speaker – Mario Ferrusi from Marsh Hollow Orchids will be discussing Masdevallia species and hybrids. Mario started growing orchids just after his daughter was born in 1980. He quickly learned to like the weird and unusual and everything in the cool range, especially Masdevallias and Draculas. He joined the Southern Ontario Orchid Society and became the Membership Chair and then the Show Chair for many years, eventually becoming the President of the Society. He became an accredited AOS judge in 1998 and is currently the Chair of the Toronto judging region. He has concentrated his hybridizing in Masdevallias, Odontoglossums and Lycastes and has won many AOS awards for his work.

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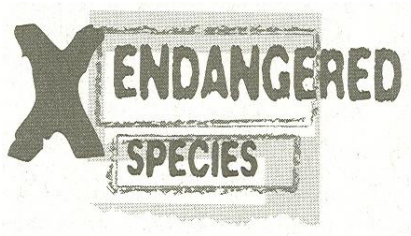

Orchid no showy exotic

By CARRIE WEST *Special to the Times Colonist*

White-lip rein orchid photographed in Cobble Hill.
Adolf Ceska/Special to the TC

WHITE-LIP REIN ORCHID
Species: Piperia Candida
Location: Coastal B.C., including Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert. Range extends from California to southern Alaska. Official Status: Red-listed (provincial)
Number growing in B.C.: 200 known plants (approximately)
Ecological significance: One of three red-listed orchids in B.C.
Favourite habitat in B.C.: Limestone in open fir forest with arbutus, and Garry oak. Further north, it occurs on more open habitat.
Key threats: Logging, urban development

Why is it that bad guys in movies always grow rare orchids? Well, it's an easy way to demonstrate criminal patience and the lust for power - or in this case, the lust to master nature.

But it-also shows a desire to possess what is rare, what lesser people can only dream about. When it comes to plants, rarity is an interesting topic.

Take our white-lip rein orchid for instance. It's a little white orchid - not the most striking or conspicuously beautiful. But it's rare, even though it grows from Alaska to California.

It's considered "suffusively rare," a term coined about five years ago, according to local botanist Adolf Ceska. It means that a plant is found over a large geographic area, but only in small patches. Ceska says usually fewer than 10 of these white-lip rein orchids grow in B.C. at a single location.

In the Pacific Northwest, only three per cent of native plant species are suffusively rare. (The opposite of suffusive rarity is endemic rarity, where a plant once grew profusely over a small area.)

Why can't the white-lip rein orchid multiply? Ceska's best guess involves fungi embedded in the roots of this orchid - if the fungi are in short supply, so is the white-lip rein orchid.

It's known to grow on a limestone island near Prince Rupert, the Upana Caves (near Thasis), Eagle Heights (near Shawnigan Lake), Cobble Hill, Spectacle Lake and nearby Mt. Jeffrey.

It's also found in the remnants of a Douglas fir forest in the Butchart Gardens, out of the public eye. It grows there naturally (it wasn't planted).

Its genus, "piperia," was actually named in 1901 after Charles Vancouver Piper, who was born in Victoria but established his botany career in Washington state and later, Washington, D.C.

According to Ceska, piperia is common to western North America, usually in coastal regions. Our white-lip rein orchid, or "piperia candida," wasn't declared a unique species until 1990. It looks similar to another piperia (piperia unalascensis or Alaska rein orchid) and they were lumped together, along with a couple of other unique piperias.

The problem with identifying our "piperia candida" is that pressed blooms fade. Ceska says that in a herbarium the dried white petals looked yellow, like the Alaska rein orchid. But in the wild, the difference is noticeable.

"It has really inconspicuous flowers and this is why it has escaped the attention of even the botanists," says Ceska, noting that our little white-lip rein orchid isn't a rein orchid at all. (English names frustrate him. He prefers the Latin.) A true rein orchid has green leaves when in bloom, says Ceska. But a piperia orchid's leaves wither before it blooms

So, to sum up, our little white-lip rein orchid has an inappropriate name and will never be an eye-popper. It's pretty but this terrestrial orchid only grow about 45 centimetres tall with small blooms. It's not one of the showy exotic favoured by bad guys in movies. But the orchid does grow on private land, and thus faces threats from logging and development. And the rarer it gets, the more precious it becomes, whether villains recognize it or not.

Times Colonist, September 18, 2005

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Amateur Cattleya Growers and Sprawling Pseudo-Bulbs!

Ned Mattinen

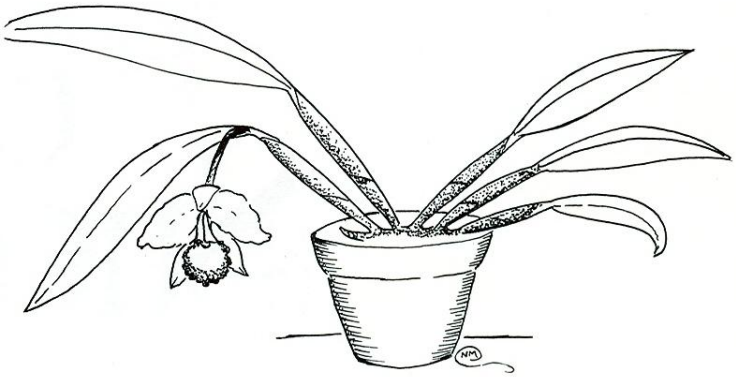
One of the most noted errors in the growing of Cattleya orchids with beginners is in letting their plants grow without staking the new growth upright. What a miserable sight! (Especially when a prospective buyer would like to purchase a division from such a plant having prize winning blooms!)

In the not too far past, I purchased on two separate occasions plants from two persons. Both plants had very beautiful blooms . . . but those pseudobulbs were almost horizontal with the potting media! The growers of these plants probably thought that the pseudobulbs would straighten out themselves one of these days. (No sir, dear grower, not a chance! Once these new growths lay horizontal after reaching over 3 inches in length . . . Only "TNT" will be able to raise them up!)

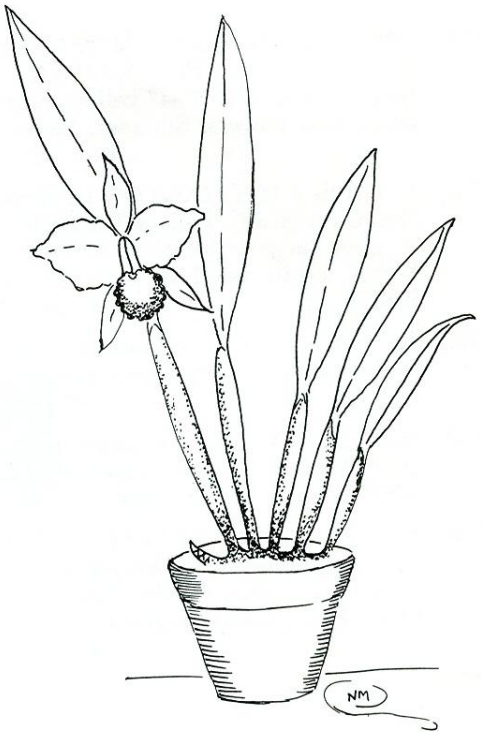
I do not consider myself an expert at staking pseudobulbs upright by any means, nor do I know the secrets of the orchid nurseries in staking up theirs . . . but I certainly will not let my plants go unstaked and have blooms rubbing lips with the growing table! (Or windowsill.) A number of varieties in the Cattleya line have difficult pseudobulbs to train upright and many of these (especially young plants) which are "willowy" have a tendency to bend in the center of the pseudobulb . . . making it almost impossible to get them upright. Some of these plants may acquire an almost sudden bending in the center of the pseudo-bulb! (As if overnight.)

Cattleya orchids in their natural state (species) in the jungles will be found overhead growing on trees with the pseudobulbs sprawled in all directions with the majority of the blooms facing sunward . .

. put these plants into a pot in this condition on your table or windowsill and you will find yourself with a crimped neck from trying to look into the blooms! Yes, nature specially fixed these orchids in the jungle trees to grow this way.



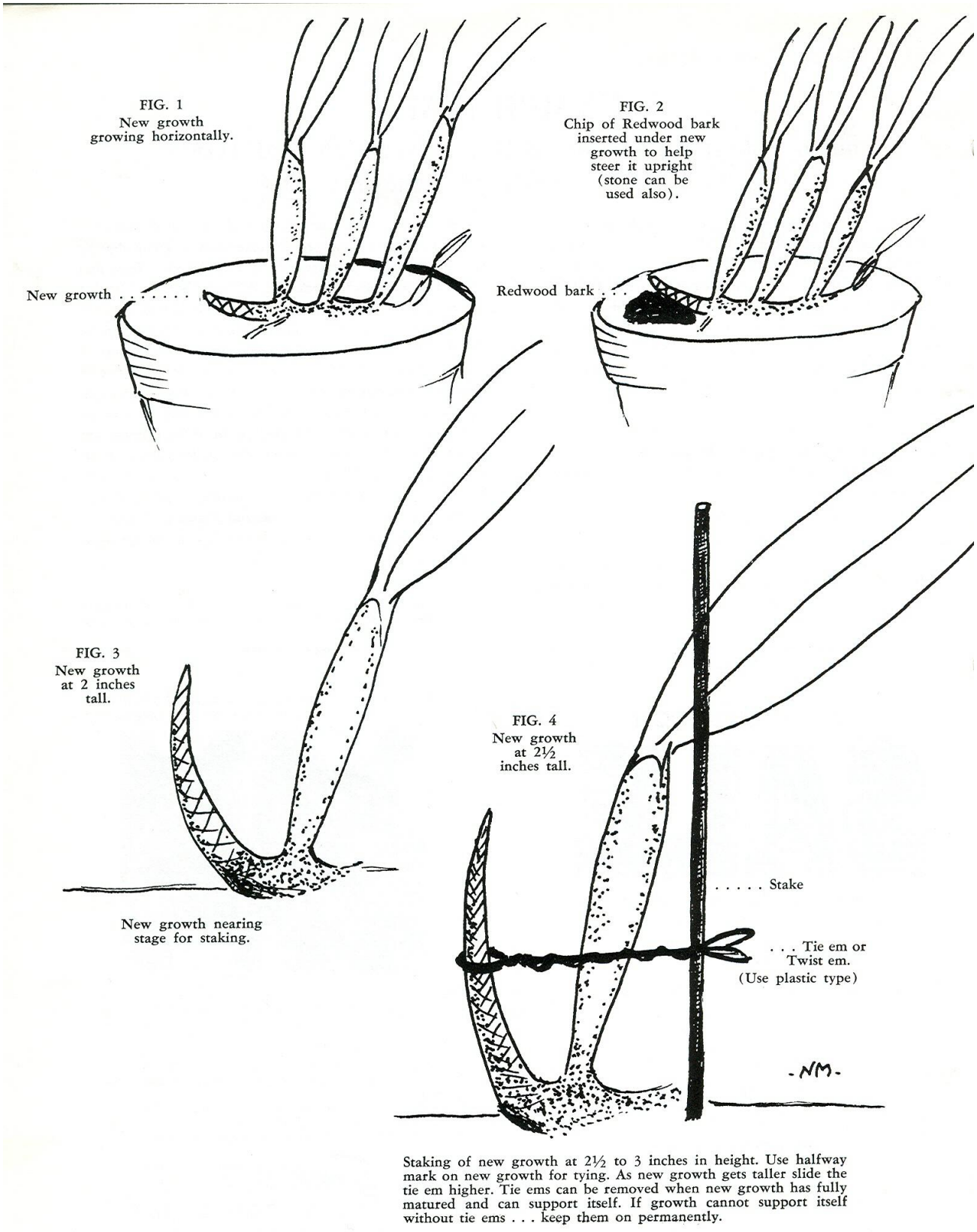
Untrained plant



Same plant, trained upright

If a person could obtain every Cattleya orchid plant with self supporting pseudobulbs, it would be a grand delight! To this date I haven't found much more than a handful of Cattleyas with self-supporting pseudobulbs. Two plants in my collection rate very high in this respect . . . they are *Blc*. Encanto and *Blc*. Rising Sun, which have never required much staking or tying, as they grow straight upward. (Bless them!) Some dwarfish *Sophrolaeliocattleya* could also follow this same pattern and even if not . . . they would be easier to train than the large growing Cattleyas. So . . . if you are a person who abhors staking or tying up plants it is best to seek orchid plants requiring the least support.

To those amateur growers of Cattleya orchids who do not mind staking and tying up their plants, I have included along with this article a few diagrams on the staking and tying of Cattleya orchid plants. There may be other better ways of doing the job, but I have managed to get by fairly well on this method (until better ideas come along). One thing I could never be wrong on . . . that is, use plastic coated tie-ems or twist-ems as they outlast paper coated types.



Staking of new growth at 2½ to 3 inches in height. Use halfway mark on new growth for tying. As new growth gets taller slide the tie em higher. Tie ems can be removed when new growth has fully matured and can support itself. If growth cannot support itself without tie ems . . . keep them on permanently.

Orchid Digest, September 1970

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Let the Sun Cool Your Greenhouse (Ventilating with Solar Energy)

Bob Gordon

The energy of the sun can be used to ventilate orchid greenhouses at no recurring cost to the grower. The more sun you have, the more ventilation you can have.

Moreover, the method we're going to discuss has the sterling benefit of operating even when nothing else does. It costs nothing to operate and works even in a power outage. And it's easy to build. You're skeptical? Read on.

The principle of the chimney effect is an elegantly simple one: warm, rising air that is contained will draw replacement air into the bottom of the container. . . in this case a vertical pipe. That 'draw' is our means of removing unwanted hot air from the greenhouse. The chimney or stack will boost natural convection currents and if the air is heated in the chimney, the process can go on as long as the heating continues. It only works when sun is shining. . . but then, that's the time you need the ventilation most, isn't it?

How to heat air in a chimney? That's where the solar energy comes in. We will heat air in a chimney with the sun's rays and sustain the vertical movement of air in the chimney. . . and the suction at the bottom. . . which is going to provide extraction of the hot air. . . which is what we want. Neat. The whole greenhouse or solarium is, in effect, a solar chimney. We take in cool air, heat it, and convect it out through the stack.

What that means to us as orchid growers is that a simple structure called a solar chimney is going to cool our greenhouses with no outside help. It turns itself on as the greenhouse heats up... and turns itself off when the greenhouse cools down. The hotter it gets in the greenhouse, the harder it works. Sound too good to be true? I know it does, but it works, folks. And, although it has for a couple of thousand years, some of us have gotten into the habit of looking on anything that is cheap as being unworthy. Not so.

Now don't turn the page and say I can't build things, so this is not for me. If you really can't build things, find someone who can and have them make you one. It will be worth the small expense. The pay-back on the investment, incidentally, is fastest in the hot, sunny regions.

Solar chimneys can be used to ventilate greenhouses, sun porches, homes, shops, barns, and almost any other structure they can be bolted to and where the sun shines.

A ceiling or turbulator fan which mixes air in the greenhouse probably will reduce the efficiency of the chimney somewhat, but we've got to have them, so don't worry about the loss. A gee-whiz feature of the system comes into operation if power goes off in hot weather. The heated air in the house stratifies with the hottest air at the highest point in the greenhouse. . . and this gives the best possible performance of the chimney.

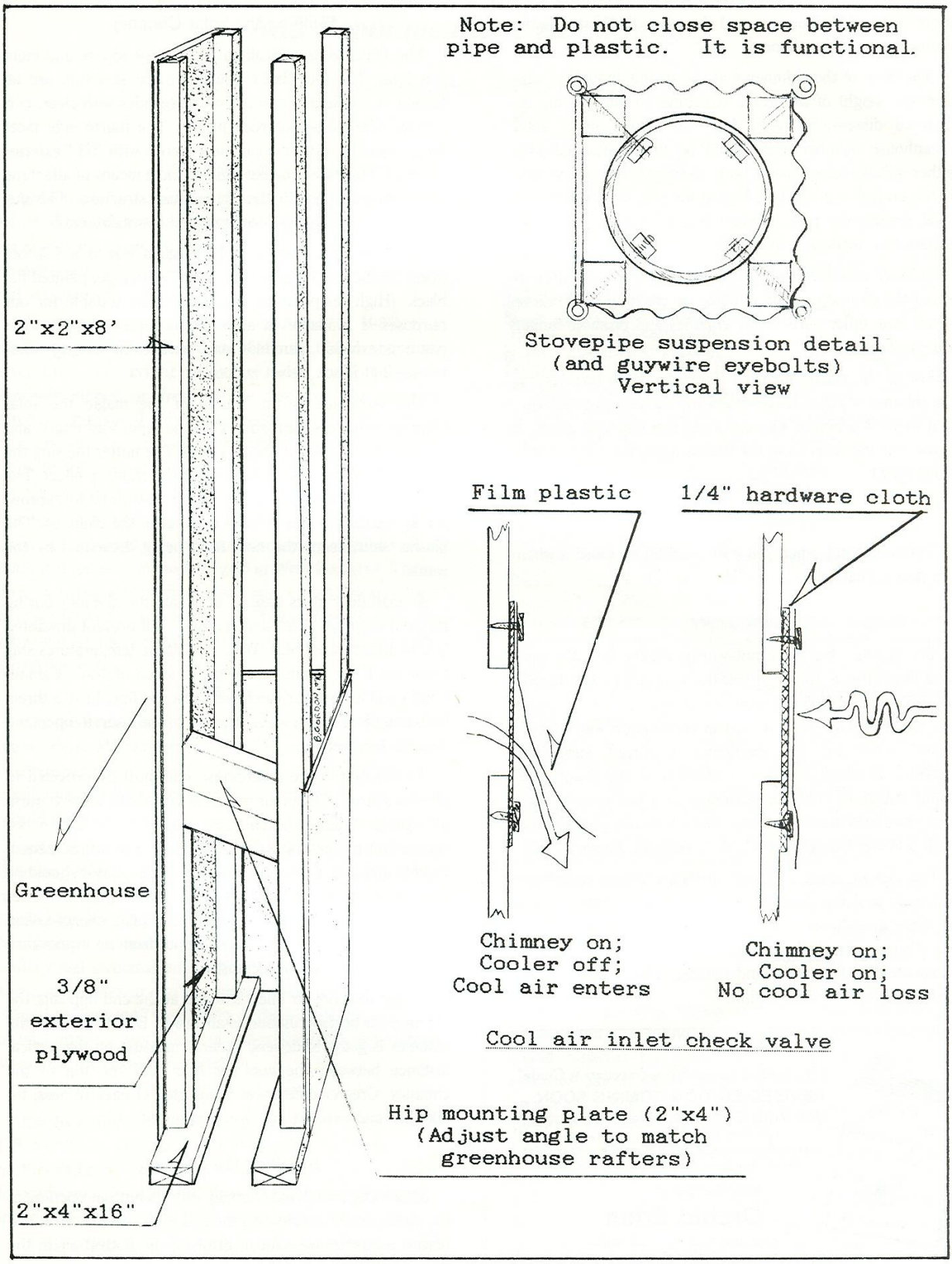
The 'feet' of the chimney must be strong enough to support the weight of the whole structure, so don't skimp on material dimensions here. The 'feet' stand on a solid greenhouse member and should be firmly attached with either bolts or lag screws or both. Vertical height of the base is not critical and can be adjusted for best attachment to a solid greenhouse part. If none is available to mount the chimney to, make and install one.

A lower external brace from bottom of the chimney to either the ground or a hip molding on the house will relieve strain from other parts of the chimney and promote longer life.

For all the macho men out there: get some help raising the chimney in place. It's awkward and dangerous, particularly if there is a breeze blowing when you put it in place. (I know, but the scars from the hernia operation have almost faded now.)

Operating the Chimney

Open the hatch when you want ventilation. Close it when you don't. That's it.



Afterthoughts

The chimney has three noteworthy effects: first, the running time of your cooler (if you use one) will be shortened; second, you can probably unplug your wall ventilating fan (if you use one); and third, if used in conjunction with a heat-motor vent and an emergency overhead sprinkling system. . . it could save your collection in the event of a power outage or cooler malfunction on a hot summer day. (For more information on these latter features, see "Coping With a Power Outage," p. 11, *ADS Bulletin*, January 1982.

This system, using a 12-inch stovepipe and an eight-foot-high box, probably won't provide all the ventilation needed for many greenhouses, but it will skim the hottest air from any structure in which it is used. For that purpose it is an inexpensive, cost-effective and reliable option worthy of an orchid hobbyist's consideration.

Building the Solar Chimney

The structure is basically a box, a foot square and eight feet long. The four 2x2's, which are the skeleton, are attached to a base and covered on three sides with clear, corrugated fiberglass-reinforced plastic. The fourth side faces away from the sun and can be covered with 3/8" exterior plywood. The base provides rigidity and a means of attaching the chimney firmly to the greenhouse structure. The guy wires are optional, but recommended in windy areas.

Hung inside the wood and fiberglass box is a 7 l/2-foot (three 30-inch sections) length of 12" stovepipe, painted flat black. (High temperature, flat black paint suitable for our purposes is available in auto supply stores. It's used for painting exhaust manifolds and barbecues, among other things. 3-M Black Velvet is good.)

This stovepipe is the source of the magic the solar chimney produces. Sun shines on the pipe, warming it and causing the air inside to begin rising. The hotter the sun, the more heat produced and the greater the chimney effect. The stovepipe is topped with a 12" attic vent turbine to improve the air extraction and to keep rain out of the chimney. The plastic 'skin' keeps the heat from being dissipated by the wind.

A small door at its base. . . to isolate the chimney during the cool evenings of fall and spring. . . will prevent unwanted loss of accumulated heat. When nighttime temperatures stay above 60^{o}F the chimney can be left open or "on". Cabinet hinges and a magnetic catch will work just fine. I use a three foot long piece of stiff wire, attached to the door, to open and close it; long reach.

An opening in the greenhouse wall must be provided to allow a source of fresh air from the outside to replace warm air exiting through the chimney. One and one-half to two square feet of opening will do if the opening is unscreened. Double that area if insect screening is used. . . as it should be in most areas. Several distributed small openings are better than one large one. (See detail for a neat energy-saving gadget.) Do not count the area of input from an evaporative cooler in this required opening.

Locate the cool air inlets low and at the end opposite the chimney for best circulation of air inside. Effectiveness of the chimney is going to depend in large measure on the vertical distance between the cool air inlet and the top of the chimney. Greater difference means greater effectiveness. In-take low and exhaust high for best results.

Installing the Chimney

Attach the completed chimney with its bottom opening at the highest point possible on the end of the greenhouse. The reason is simple: we want to draw off the hottest air in the house and that means the highest.