The Chatterbox gets its name from the way the lip flutters up and down in the wind. This orchid grows in British Columbia and throughout the western United States from the Pacific Coast inland as far as Texas. Also known as the Stream Orchid, it requires a constant source of water by its roots, making it vulnerable to changes in the water table. Pollinators for this orchid include Syrphid flies, which normally lay their eggs among aphids on which the fly larvae feed. The Chatterbox attracts these flies by producing a fragrance that mimics the smell of honeydew, the sweet liquid excreted by aphids. This fragrance, and the bumpy surface on the orchid’s lip, convince the fly it has found a nest of aphids. The fly enters the flower to lay its eggs and any pollen on the fly’s back is scraped off. A new load of pollen is transferred to the fly as it leaves.

To learn more about the Chatterbox, scan the QR code with your phone or visit the species page on Go Orchids at goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org

Paper is fragile so be gentle when you push out the shapes. Glue the separate pieces before assembling them together.

The Chatterbox

Epipactis gigantea

Chatterbox

The goal of the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC), established by the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Botanic Garden, is to assure the survival of native orchids in the U.S. and Canada. To learn more about NAOCC and what you can do for orchid conservation, visit: www.northamericanorchidcenter.org
This is what the paper Chatterbox will look like when built.