

Victoria Orchid Society



Inside this issue:

- 2 *President's Message*
- 2 *Upcoming Events*
- 3 *Past Events*
- 4 *Pest Control Canadian Style*
- 5 *Member Profiles*
- 8 *Minutes of the January meeting*
- 9 *Society Information*
- 10 *Upcoming Shows & Classifieds*



Diana Rowles' lovely Mrs. Anellie Loeb x endresii (a Poul Hansen hybrid) was chosen as the best plant on the display table at the January general meeting.

Meetings:

2013

- Feb. 26th
- Mar. 26th
- Apr. 23rd
- May 28th
- June 25th

Members with last names starting with **D, E, F, & G** are asked to bring goodies for the February meeting.

*Welcome back to returning member,
Terry McDougald*

*Condolences to long-time member, Joan Agnew,
whose husband, Tom, passed away last month*



*Lc. Mini Purple
'Blue Pacific'*

From the Editor

The VicOS Spring Show & Sale approaches. Many of you have already offered to volunteer for a session or two of the show. The shifts are only two hours long and time does fly when you are having fun (which you will be). Please check the list that I circulated this week and see if you can fill one of the empty spots. This is the most important event of the society's year, be part of it!

Once again there will be a free prize draw ticket for those people spotting the *Surprise Orchid* (✿ identified by this symbol) in the newsletter. Watch for it, you could be a winner.

Diana Rowles

www.victoriaorchidsociety.com

Check out our website for information about the society, upcoming events, plant registration for shows, regulations for bringing orchids into Canada, and what books are in our library and links to interesting sites. The orchids from the display table each meeting are now posted on the web.

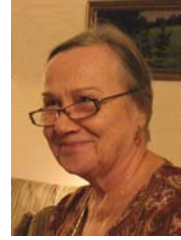
Contributions to the newsletter can be made up to 14 days before the next meeting date by contacting me by phone or email. (250-385-8888 or enviroed@telus.net).

Logo photo D. Rowles

President's Message

As I write this, our show is only three weeks away!

Hopefully, you have all managed to get your orchids to make flowers that you can exhibit in our show, for all to see. They do not need to be huge and exceptional. We need clean plants and pots, nice looking flowers and even if the plant only has one blossom or no name, why not bring it?



Ingrid Ostrander

Of course, it is not only the Victoria group that holds a show. A week before ours, Edmonton has their show, one week after ours, Mount Baker society in Washington has theirs and two weeks after that, Vancouver has an orchid show at the VanDusen Gardens. We will get our eyes full of beautiful flowers, for sure.

One other important thing to remember at this time of year – our sunlight will become much stronger now – maybe it will even manage to clear away those grey clouds! You will need to be observant and make sure that the nice bright sunshine will not be too strong and burn your orchids. Unless you grow your orchids under massive lights, the plants have been semi-dormant with short, dark days and need to be woken up gently in order to make flowers. Bring them to the meeting and bring them for the show! See you there.

Ingrid

Upcoming Events:

The monthly meeting of the Victoria Orchid Society is held on the fourth Tuesday of every month except July, August and December, starting at 7:30 p.m. The plants on the display table are presented by experts, followed by a short business meeting, a coffee break with a prize draw of plants and orchid related material, and a featured presentation.

The meeting ends between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m. Joe Chow is Plant Doctor and will help you with orchid issues for 15 minutes before the start of the meeting (7:10-7:25 p.m.).



February 26th meeting: Debb Ward will demonstrate how to prepare your orchids for shows.



A long time orchid grower, watercolour artist, and recently accredited orchid judge, Debb is especially well equipped to help you get the best out of your plant. Not only does she know what looks good, she knows what judges are looking for in all the different species and hybrids.

She will demonstrate the steps that should be taken to prepare any orchid for a judged show.

March 2nd & 3rd, Victoria Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale

Again this year, we will be holding our spring show in conjunction with the Victoria Hospitals Foundation. This arrangement allows us to support a worthy charity while benefitting from the Foundations' assistance and connections, as was shown by the success of the 2012 spring show.



The volunteer sheets were passed around at the January meeting and many people signed up. We still need more and I have sent out a reminder by email. Please respond as soon as you can sort out your calendars. It is time to take your posters around to your favourite haunts and, also, suggest the donation of raffle prizes. It is amazing how many businesses are prepared to donate something nice for a little publicity. See current list of donors on our website.

Past Events

January 22nd meeting: Pat van Adrichem presented basic techniques for growing orchids, particularly Phalaenopsis, in which he specializes.

He demonstrated how to pot new seedlings and have them survive, something that many of us have been quite unsuccessful at doing. His ongoing reminder that “it is only a plant”, is sometimes difficult to keep in mind.



The proof of the process



Pat says that he has adopted the tight moss policy that he observed in Asia and finds that it works extremely well for his Phalaenopsis and other orchids.

He spreads the roots of the seedling, inserting some very well drained, but moist sphagnum moss, folds the roots around this centre core, then presses a large handful of moss around the outside of the roots and forces the plant into a clear pot (so he can watch the roots).



Lastly, with his thumbs, he presses the moss tightly around the roots in the pot, barely leaving room to insert a name tag. He pours water (and fertilizer) on top of this solid block of moss and allows it to seep down to the roots. He does not water again until no condensation shows in the pot.



It's Only A Plant!

When repotting a plant with roots growing outside the pot, he wraps them in moss and pushes them down into the pot.

The Baguette Party - Preparing for the Show

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes when our show is in the offing. One of the more mundane and boring activities is that of preparing bags to receive purchases at the till. When the plants are bought, the cashier takes the money, but the packer has to place the plants safely in a bag for the customer. To make the bags strong enough, they must be cut down, double folded and lined. Each year, a group of members get together to prepare several hundred bags of different size in this way.

This year, Deb and Dave kindly hosted this session of about three hours of frantic pseudo-origami. There have to be a few light moments to carry on this task. Lioba Samer often hosts this event, but as she is travelling in Antarctica at the moment, we soldiered on without her (although frequently checking that we following her very specific pattern!)



Deb and Dave kindly provided sustenance and Deb caught some pictures of us relaxing after our hours of folding.

Potting Workshop at GardenWorks, Feb. 3, 2013

The workshop held at GardenWorks by Art Macgregor and Debb Ward was attended by a small but interested audience. Debb and Art had a selection of their own orchids to illustrate those not on sale at the store. Art covered various potting materials and techniques as well as explaining the features of various orchid species.



Pest Control Canadian Style

This article appeared in the February 2013 newsletter of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society

For the January 6th 2013 meeting we had as our guest speaker Spencer Hauck. He spoke about pesticides currently available to the home grower.

It seems that the options for the home grower have been severely curtailed. The chemicals mentioned by our previous speaker Ron McHatton, (write-up published in the COC newsletter <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/news/cocv245.pdf>) are not available in Canada. Others can only be used under restricted circumstances. For instance for outside use **Round-up** can only be used for poison Ivy control.

Horticultural oils are our most potent remedies at present. They generally consist of 97% mineral oil and 3% emulsifier. On January 13, 2013 **neem** oil, the anti-feeding and anti-molting remedy for many insects (even head lice) used in India for centuries, becomes illegal to use as a pesticide and all because no one wants to spend the \$25,000 needed to prove it is harmless to mammals. The reason for this unwillingness is that one cannot patent neem and thus make a killing. Since neem is a food grade oil it can still be imported, but not used as a pesticide legally (*Your transcriber does not understand why the government cannot spend this amount to prove the oil harmless as a public service? I do understand why no businessman is going to spend even such a relatively speaking, piddly amount if someone else is going to make a profit from it as soon as the tester has spent the money. I guess politicians are too*

busy wasting more than that collectively on their own perks eg: \$16 orange juice). Neem has a shelf life of about 10 years, the ready to use formulation lasts about 2 years.

Organophosphates are already all illegal except for **Malathion**. But remember Malathion can damage Phalaenopsis roots and if you use it you must use safety goggles, neoprene gloves and a respirator. It is dangerous! You cannot use it in the house or in confined spaces and you must stay out of the treated area for 48 hours, so wait for the summer if you must use it and use it outside.

Severn is still legal in Quebec.

Pyrethrum is back on the market after having been banned for some time. It is an insect neurotoxin. It can be used indoors but not out-of-doors – probably because of all the beneficial insects it would kill with the target insect. It is the main ingredient in **Trounce**.

Sulfur powder in a water suspension changes the pH on the leaf it is sprayed on and this prevents eggs from hatching. By mixing it with Trounce you get an effective miticide. The only downside is sulfur's rotten egg smell.

Silicon dioxide distributed as **diatomaceous earth** is harmless to mammals (as long as you do not breathe in the powder – it is very abrasive since it consists of sharp shards of the exoskeletons of tiny dead sea-animals called diatoms.) It deters snails.

Insecticidal soap dehydrates insects by dissolving their waxy coverings. At \$20 per litre of concentrate it is quite economical. Use it at the rate of one tablespoon per liter of water. It consists of Alkanolamine Salt. Dish wash detergent is often suggested as a substitute, but it is not as effective. It contains Trichlosan which is a magnesium salt. The best brand to use for insecticidal use is **Dawn**.

Pheromone traps or **Yellow Sticky traps** attract the males of white flies and gnats by both their colour and the female pheromones. **Blue sticky strips** are used for thrips. Scientists are working on aphid pheromones. Since most aphid generations are female they have their job cut out for them.

Beneficial Insects and other **beneficial organisms** work fairly well if you can change the environment to suit their generally exacting needs. For instance one such beneficial needs 74% humidity and 75degrees Fahrenheit temperature! Also they are very expensive.

70% Isopropyl (rubbing alcohol) should generally be used mixed with an equal amount of water. However plants tend to get stunted growth after heavy use of this remedy.

3-5% Hydrogen peroxide can be used straight as a spray and tends to pop the insect, as any absorbed liquid turns into the more voluminous water and oxygen.

Windex is ammonia based and damages more than just the insect.

25% bleach should be used to disinfect benches and pots and potting tools.

Vapona strips are hard to find now, but putting the plant in a plastic bag with a strip for ten minutes should kill all hitchhikers on it. When you open the strip and later the plastic bag, make sure you don't breathe in the fumes – they are very toxic. So choose a windy day in summer and have your face upwind.

Now a few words about the **pests** to be controlled!

1. **Sap suckers** not only damage the plants, but their holes cause the plants to leak honeydew. The honeydew attracts pathogens as well. An example is black mould that coats the plant and severely slows photosynthesis. All sorts of fungal and bacterial diseases make their way from the honeydew to the hole it came from into the plant.

Aphids mostly attack new growth and flowers and any soft growth caused by too ample fertilization. Ants farm them, as we do cows, and will move and/or protect them. Female aphids bear live, pregnant females 3 days after they were born themselves. This continues until conditions become unfavourable or too crowded when they all of a sudden bear winged males and winged females.

Spraying aphids with cold water causes the sugar in their bodies to crystallize and puncture their bodies. Since insects do not really have much of a wound healing mechanism, they die. Another way to get them is to spray twice with an equal mix of water and 70% rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol.

Lady bugs can be bought, but the adults tend to fly away when released. To get larvae, feed the adults by spraying them with sugar water and release at night. That will encourage egg laying, before they take off in the morning. The larvae eat about 30 aphids per day.

Lacewings will eat anything that moves and their larvae resemble those of ladybugs and are even more voracious.

Mealybugs are moved by ants as well, but not as much as aphids. They hide extremely well, so check sheaths and undersides of everything. In bark mixes they move into the root ball as well. All stages but the eggs injure their hosts.



There are short and long-tailed species. The long tailed species carry their eggs with them and the short-tailed ones leave them hidden in clumps on the host plant. The long-tailed species are the most common on orchids. The citrus mealy bug will go on orchids too and it has become resistant to most insecticides. An added problem is the white waxy covering on this insect, which makes penetration by pesticides very difficult.

Neem oil used to be the most effective remedy, but now we are only left with the other horticultural oils. Do not fail to repeat applications or resistance will build up. Small infestations can be removed with a Q-tip dipped in straight rubbing alcohol and dabbing the bugs with the Q-tip. The alcohol dissolves the wax and the bugs dry out, unless it is so wet in the environment that they can reform their wax coats before drying out.

Thrips are about one to two millimeters long and tend to hold up their rear ends like mini-scorpions. They transfer viruses really well. Since they can hop an amazingly long distance, they can evade danger and really spread throughout an area. They tend to leave little black speckles of excrement in the areas in which they feed. They like the colour bright blue which is why pheromone sticky traps for them are coloured blue (Source: Lee Valley).



Insecticidal soap with pyrethrum is effective, as are horticultural oils. Do 3 applications per pesticide and then switch to another for 3 applications before going back to the original pesticide.

Use sulfur to kill the eggs and be sure to spray the benches and floors as well as the plants. Remove all dead plant material. Spread the floor with one inch (2.5cm) of dolomitic limestone chips.

Scale tends to be very host specific. There are about 7-8000 species, but only two are common on orchids. They are the **brown scale** and the (white) **Boisduval scale**. Use oils, but Malathion is the only really effective remedy. Insecticidal soap is ineffective. Early detection is key. Once a plant is heavily infested, especially with Boisduval scale (a small white scale) it might be better to discard it.



The brown scale is easier to kill and eradicate, but it loves phalaenopsis. This scale does not discriminate between orchids and other tropicals, clematis, annuals, and even perennials. Our speaker has seen them all with the same species of scale insect. The Boisduval scale, though harder to control, usually only targets cattleya alliance, vandas and occasionally cymbidiums, so it is easier to detect.

Spider Mites – the large species make webbing on the undersides of leaves. They can stay alive without a host for three years in a house! They love hot dry air. Their damage looks similar to that of



thrips, but thrips leave a white stippling with black excrement spots, while spider mites add a yellow discolouration to the stippling. They love English Ivy and bean sprouts. Use sulfur to kill the eggs, lower the temperature by 3 Celsius degrees and up the humidity by 5%. Spray rubbing alcohol 50% and water 50% once a week three times. Spray with sulfur once a day.

False Spider Mites are 1/10th the size of ordinary spider mites. There are two common species found on orchids, one translucent green and one more solid red-orange. Spencer is using sulfur sprays and that is killing them quickly. He re-applies the spray once every 7 days and when he is treating them he keeps the room temperature around 70° F (21°C) so it speeds up their "hatching". And keep them out of direct sunlight during treatment (to avoid chemical burns). He wants to get rid of all of them fast! You need a microscope to see them though and the bodies of the species on his plants are solid red. All that appears to indicate their presence is the leaf damage (looking like lack of fertilizer or improper watering) - they are hard to detect.

White fly does not generally bother orchids, but they have been found on *Phaius*. The problem is that they transfer viruses better than any other pest and therefore are very bad news. They can spread virus in a whole greenhouse in just two days. They leave yellow and white blotches on the undersides of the plants they attack. Their larval stages cause the most damage. Use lacewings, (neem oil), insecticidal soap (least effective), Malathion, pheromone sticky traps (this gets rid of the males, but takes three weeks to see a decrease in pest numbers). Apply any remedy three times after you see the last insect.

2. Boring Insects:

Orchid weevils causes a yellow and purple discolouration in the attacked plant part. Quarantine all plants imported from the East. Adults can live for two months and larvae for 8 months. They commonly attack the root systems of Vandas. Cut out affected parts since sprays available to us cannot get to them. Cygon 2E (shelf life – 3years) used to be the chemical of choice, but it was banned because it causes cancer. It was also the only effective remedy for Iris borer. Now we are advised to grow Siberian Iris instead!! Sprinkling the plants and pots infested with orchid weevil with silicon dioxide will get any adults wandering around.

3. Defoliating Insects:

Examples are: Slugs, caterpillars, wood lice (pill bugs), earwigs, roaches. First line of defense is hygiene. Remove anything dead.

Slugs and snails- use beer traps, copper sheet barriers, diatomaceous earth, citrus fruit rinds attract them and can be used as traps. Bran flakes make another good attractant.

Pill bugs and earwigs: use a rolled up paper to entice them to hide in it, then burn it. Mint repels them. Adding lavender oil to Neem oil plus insecticidal soap was recommended as a spray by a member of the audience.

Springtails are harmless, but insecticidal soap will kill them.

Fungus gnats –the adults are harmless, but the larvae eat root tips. Kill them with insecticidal soap and mix the top inch (2-3cm) of the pot with diatomaceous earth.

**Note: Always read and follow the directions on the bottle of insecticide, and always follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. *Note: It is a good idea to keep track of the insect infestations on a chart (example below on page 10). This will tell you what you have used and when it was last applied. It will also tell you which plants had the problem and what insect/disease was causing the damage.

*Note: Insects change as they come into contact with insecticides and will build a resistance to a specific one if it is the only product used. Alternate between different insecticides every 3 applications to eliminate the pest populations. (*Note: Spencer has provided us with a very helpful summary chart that we will publish in the next SOOS News.)

Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting January 22, 2013

The meeting of January 22nd was held in the Garth Homer Centre. President Ingrid Ostrander called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Ingrid welcomed all members and announced we still have some of those blue label donated plants which are now free, but a small donation to the judges travel fund would be appreciated. A special welcome to our new member Richard Wong who donated copies of two of his paintings to our Christmas draw table. Ingrid then announced the passing of Dr. Wally Thomas on January 15th. He was a Vancouver OS member, internationally acclaimed breeder of *Odontoglossum* and co-founder of the Canadian Orchid Congress. She also asked everyone to please pay a loonie for their coffee or tea and reminded everyone to mark their favourite plant with the plastic disk. Geoff Haywood and Poul Hansen then presented the show table.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: Noreen Taylor/Nancy Cole moved that the minutes of the November 2012 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jane presented the financial reports for the months of November and December 2012, moved for acceptance, seconded by John Taylor.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Reports:

1. AOS: Ingrid mentioned the Richmond judging site needs plants for judging and that BC now has two new student judges – Bev Hansen and Bryan Emery as well as two earlier students, Margaret Prat and Brian Young. Now that VicOS has three accredited judges, we can actually have and AOS judging event during one of our meetings.
2. COC: Their November 2012 newsletter has a very helpful article on pesticides so check their website. Diana is also going to put the article in our newsletter.
3. Workshops: Dave has arranged two workshops at GardenWorks, Blenkinsop in February for their Orchidfest, one on the 3rd and the other on the 17th. There is another one following our show on March 17th as well as one at Marigold on March 30th. All will be from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
4. Library: The library has several framed photographs which members are welcome to take, free.
5. Membership: We now have 73 members.
6. Newsletter: Diana is trying to put together another order for virus kits @ \$8.00 each for 2 uses so please let her know if you want any.
7. Plant Orders: Debbie Ward suggested checking Carmela's website. The ordering deadline is March 26th.
8. Plant Sales: We have lots of excellent plants for sale tonight.
9. Prize Draw: The name tag ticket is blue.
10. Programs: Next month Debb Ward will be instructing on how to preparing plants for the shows.
11. Spring Show: Please take posters and \$1 off coupons. Garden shops will be approached by a show team member. Take your poster to any shop and ask for a donation. The volunteer sign-up sheet is being passed around so please come out and help and bring a friend or family member to help also. We have great vendors lined up – Paramount has moved from Calgary and will be attending and we have Ten Shin from Taiwan as well as regular, local vendors.

New Business

The BC Council of Garden Clubs AGM is March 23rd in Vancouver.

Program: Patrick van Adrichem demonstrated repotting Phalaenopsis.

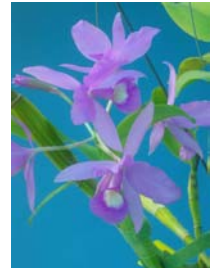
Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 26th, 2013 at Garth Homer Centre.

Adjournment: The President, Poul Hansen and Noreen Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathryn Collins

Society Information

General meetings are held at the Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin Ave., Victoria B.C., on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Members are encouraged to bring in their orchids in bloom to display on the show table. They will be photographed and posted on our website.



C. skinneri

Guest speakers are engaged for these meetings and often, speakers bring plants for sale. There is also a sale table where plants brought in by members may be purchased.

Plant sales begin at 7:15 p.m. and the meeting runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Membership fees are \$25.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for households. The Society membership year runs from September to September, but meetings are not held in July and August. Name tags are available for \$9.00, magnetized tags are \$11.00.

Coffee and tea are available for \$1.00 at the meeting and goodies are provided by members in rotation, based upon the initial letter of their last names. Goodies are requested from those with last names beginning with D, E, F & G for the February meeting.

The Victoria Orchid Society Newsletter is published monthly, around the 15th of each month, excepting December, July and August. Newsletters will be sent by email to members with email access. Email addresses will be blind copied. Upon request, copies of the newsletter may be picked up at meetings for those not wishing to print off their copy at home.

Advertising, in the newsletter, is free of charge to members in good standing: \$2.00 per business card size ad per month to a member owned business (\$20.00 per fiscal year), \$5.00 per month to non-member businesses (\$50.00 per fiscal year). Businesses may also advertise on the Victoria Orchid Society web site *Classifieds* page for the same costs.

The Society's mailing Address is 1199 Tattersall Drive, Victoria, B.C. V8P 1Y8.

Officers:		Directors:	
President	Ingrid Ostrander	Joyce Wilson	
Vice-president	Diana Rowles	Catherine Frutiger	
Secretary	Kathryn Collins	Coreen Kempling	
Treasurer	Jane Mason	Noreen Taylor	
Web Master	Blair Humphrey	Nancy Cole	
Newsletter Editor	Diana Rowles	John Taylor	
		Kristi Leon	
Spring Show Chairs Art Macgregor, Kathryn Collins & Noreen Taylor			
In emergencies, call Ingrid Ostrander at (250) 652-0753.			



Paph. Susan Booth

Opportunities

Virus Kits

In November, we brought in an order of twenty-five virus kits. As there has been some interest, I will be ordering another 25 virus kits in February. Please let me know whether you wish to be included in such an order.

Upcoming Shows:

March 2nd & 3rd, Victoria Orchid Society's 25th International Show & Sale
Student Union Building, University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C.

March 22nd-24th, Vancouver Orchid Society's Show & Sale
VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, B.C.

April 13th & 14th, Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show & Sale
Nanaimo North Town Centre (previously called the Rutherford Mall)



Phrag. Fritz Schomburg



Cym. Latangor

10% Discount from local stores.

Show membership card before purchase.

***Borden Mercantile
Dig This
Integrity Sales
Buckerfields***

***Urban Oasis
Horticultural Services
GardenWorks***

Classified Advertisements:

B.C. GREENHOUSE BUILDERS LTD.
The Gardener's Choice since 1951

represented by
Russ Davis


572 Peto Place wk: 250-727-0067
Victoria, BC V8Z 2K6 cell: 250-744-6714

email: davisconstruction@shaw.ca

Sales and Service

- Commercial and Hobby Greenhouses
- Pre-fabricated Enclosures
- Cold Frames
- Heating and Ventilating
- Soil Cables
- Automatic Vent openings

KINGFISHER ORCHIDS



**Quality
Orchid
Plants**

Specializing in Phalaenopsis
Custom flasking service now available

Patrick van Adrichem
250.656.3094