

Victoria Orchid Society



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The lovely Laeliocattleya Hsinying Excell 'Pink Kitty' grown by Coreen Kempling was chosen as best plant on the display table at the January meeting.

**Meetings:
Spring
2014**

Feb. 25th
Mar. 25th
Apr. 22nd
May 27th
June 24th

Members with last names starting with **S, T, & V** are asked to bring goodies for the February meeting.



Dracula sodiroi
'Fuzzy Bell'

From the Editor

The Spring Show at our new venue, Our Lady of Fatima Hall, is fast approaching. As always, we will need a lot of volunteers to run the show. Please find time to take a shift or two on the weekend of March 8th & 9th. If you are a new member and have not been involved in a show before, we strongly recommend that you join our volunteers this year. It is a good way to learn more about orchids from more experienced members with whom you will be working. It is also a good time for socializing with other members. The sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting. In the meantime, please email me if you can help.

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



John Taylor

President's Message:

There can be very few of our members who haven't come down with show fever by now. 'The Show' is the main topic of conversation whenever we get together. We are especially indebted to those members who take on more than their fair share and arrange all the hundreds of details that go into making a successful show. Volunteers are still needed.

Thanks are also due to the organizers and speakers for a series of well-attended culture classes recently staged at GardenWorks. It seems that a little advertising on the GardenWorks website does wonders for bringing out potential orchid lovers. There is always the chance at these classes that someone new will be bitten by the orchid bug. The culture classes and the Spring Show are really the main occasions we have to interact with the public and key opportunities to increase our membership.

In the depth of winter, who would not have their spirits lifted and their interest raised walking through a show auditorium overflowing with magnificent flowers.

Some of us have had the tremendous experience of travelling in tropical places and seeing orchids in the wild. Our speaker this month is Sasha Kubicek who has travelled widely in the Philippines. His discussion of the orchids he found there should make for a most fascinating evening.

Orchid viewing in Venezuela and Malaysian Borneo were the subject of a note brought up at our most recent executive meeting. These upcoming trips are sponsored by Redfern Expeditions. Anyone interested in more adventurous travel might want to look into it.

A trip into the tropics tends to alter the orchid grower's perspective. When viewing those rows and rows of flowering orchids at the Show, packed in their tight little pots, we sometimes forget that out in the forest any self-respecting epiphyte would be sitting on a high limb in the canopy, its roots hanging in the air, or trailing for many meters down the bark of a tree, alternately moist or dry according to season or time of day, and blown by constant breezes. A revelation in what these plants need to thrive.

John Taylor

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 9:45 p.m.

February 25th general meeting: Sasha Kubicek, presenter

Sasha recently got back from the Philippines where he met up with Philippine orchid species expert, Ravan Schneider. Ravan has been living in the Philippines and exploring his mountain backyard for over 15 years. He has discovered nine new species to date and over 200 different species on the one mountain alone.

<i>Spring 2014</i>	
Feb. 25 th	Sasha Kubicek, <i>Wild Orchids in the Philippines</i>
Mar. 25 th	Calvin Wong, <i>Semi-hydroponic Growing</i>
Apr. 22 nd	Peter & Inge Poot <i>Stanhopeas and Related Genera</i>
May 27 th	Mario Ferrusi <i>Masdevallia & Dracula</i>
June 24 th	AGM & Orchid Auction

Sasha was lucky to visit Ravan's orchid garden where he grows species he has saved from illegal logging on the mountain and was also able to accompany Ravan on two hikes onto the mountain to see orchids growing in the wild. He will be sharing his adventures with great pictures of orchids growing in the wild, which Ravan has graciously allowed us to use for the presentation. Some of the highlights of the hikes were seeing over 200 *Paphiopedilum hennisianum* growing in one spot and seeing some of the new species Ravan has discovered!



Photos by Ravan Schnieder

March 6-8, VicOS Spring Show & Sale

The preparations for the spring show are moving forward well now, but more help is needed from the membership. We need to get more posters and Dollar off coupons out into the community. More of each will be available at the February meeting. We still need more volunteers for shifts in all areas on the days of the show.

Sponsors for trophies for the various species are still needed. Immortalize yourself as a species benefactor! The silent auction needs lots of items to make it interesting and draw participants. These donations will be publicized on our website and company logos can be posted with the item. Be sure to ask anyone who is donating something if they would like to send us their logo by email (or provide one to scan). A donor request letter will be sent out by email shortly.

Come to the Friday night gala. The evening includes first shot at the sales tables and an opportunity for close examination of the lovely displays. Have a glass of wine or a beer, some snacks and browse and chat. Kristi Leon will have tickets for the show (\$5.00) and the Friday night Gala (\$10.00) at the February meeting. It is particularly helpful if people purchase their gala tickets ahead of time, as it allows for better planning for food purchases.

Victoria Orchid Society's
Orchid Show & Sale
March 8th & 9th, 2014
SATURDAY: 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY: 10:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
Adults: \$7.00
Students & Seniors: \$6.00
lots of free, easy parking

NEW VENUE!

Sharing the Proceeds
children's
HEALTH FOUNDATION
OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

Our Lady of Fatima Hall
4635 Elk Lake Road, Victoria, BC
Across from the Commonwealth Pool
www.victoriaorchidsociety.com

Past Events

January 28th 2014 meeting, Patrick van Adrichem presented *Techniques for Happier Plants*.



Patrick spoke about the advantages of growing small plants in large plastic boxes with lids which can keep the humidity high and isolate bugs. Spray and close the lid; there is no escape!

He emphasized the importance of maintaining the appropriate pH level in your fertilizer water and potting mix. In most cases pH should be between 5 ½ and 6. This can be determined by using *Grotex* litmus strips (available at hydroponic stores). Higher readings are too alkaline and lower ones, too acid. Below 4 ½ orchid roots will rot. The black that can sometimes be seen on clay pots, is a sign of phenols which are wastes flushed from the plants roots. Check out Patrick's website for more details (www.kingfisherorchids.ca). Keep your orchids happy!



Abu Salleh

Judging News

At the AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center (Richmond)'s monthly judging on January 11, 2104, the following AOS awards were granted:

Miltoniopsis Sweet Surprise 'Gabrielle' HCC/AOS 78pts
(*Mps.* Mrs. Anneli Loeb x *Mps. warscewiczii*)➤
Exhibitor: Diana Rowles



Phragmipedium Amitabha 'Prospect Lake' AM/AOS 84pts
(*Phrag.* Patti MacHale x *Phrag. besseae*)➤
Exhibitor: Poul Hansen



At the AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center (Richmond)'s monthly judging on February 8, 2014, the following AOS awards were granted:

Phalaenopsis (Lyndon Ever Pawan x Chang Maw Evergreen). ➤
'Emerald Frost' AM/AOS 81pts ➤
(*Phal.* Lyndon Ever Pawan x *Phal.* Chang Maw Evergreen)
Exhibitor: Pat Van Adrichem

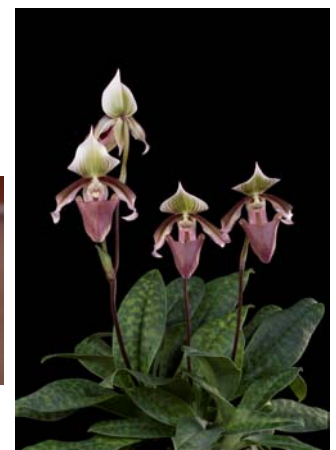


*note: award is provisional pending hybrid name registration

Specklinia megalops 'Koichi's gift' CCM/AOS 83pts➤
(*syn.* *Pleurothallis magalops*)
Exhibitor: Margaret Prat



Paphiopedilum superbiens 'Fiddlefart' AM/AOS 80pts➤
Exhibitor: Poul Hansen



Photographs by Judy Higham

**The March AOS Judging will be at our show.

February 8th & 9th: Workshops at GardenWorks

A total of six workshops were held on the weekend, presented by Ingrid, Geoff, Svend and Joe. They were backed up by Joyce, Don, Kristi and Diana. Numbers ranged from one participant at the Oak Bay Store on Saturday to twenty-two in Colwood on Sunday. We hope some of these will come to a meeting and perhaps, join the Society. Five people requested electronic copies of this newsletter at the Oak Bay Session on Sunday.



Special Report

What is an Orchid?

An orchid used to be a big purple flower you got for a corsage. Nowadays, what people recognize as orchids are *Phalaenopsis* – those with the long arching stems holding many circular flowers.

Well, there are over 30,000 different species (wild growing) orchids and thousands of hybrid orchids (man-made crosses). Some of the big flowers can be over 20 cm wide and to see the tiniest ones, you need a magnifying lens. They can be found growing on every continent, excepting Antarctica.

Botanically, orchids belong in the lily family, with asparagus and tulips. However, they have one unique and singularly different feature: the stigma and stamens have been put onto one single structure, called the column. There are two types of orchid plants: the monopodial (one) orchids like the *Phalaenopsis* (fir tree) and the sympodial (multi) ones, like *Cattleyas* (iris).

TEMPERATURE:

We usually recognize three different temperature categories and they are not difficult to achieve – only cost money. These are the night (lowest) temperature

- Warm 60° F = 15°C
- Intermediate 55° F = 13° C
- Cool 50° F = 10° C

Daytime temperatures can go quite a bit higher – at least 10°C – as long as you can provide sufficient

AIR CIRCULATION:

Fans are good or open windows, evaporative coolers!

HUMIDITY

Humidity plays a major role in maintaining orchid health. Our living rooms are not built to house many plants and the tropical ones are used to warm, humid and breezy conditions. Spraying the plants is fine but will not last. Even our bathrooms are only steamy while we run the water. The rest of the time, the air in there is just as dry as in the other rooms in our home. One can have humidifiers, moisturizing mats or pebble trays under the pots – make sure the pots don't stand in the water and

when you see green algae, clean out the trays. When it is cold outside, excess moisture can build up on window ledges – don't rot your house, find the middle of the road. Greenhouses, solariums, terrariums and similar spaces are great, but many people have only a windowsill or a light cart available and still manage to grow and bloom their orchids. This brings us to the next important feature, light.

LIGHT:

For the whole world, 'light' usually means 'sunlight'. Modern man has developed so many different kinds of sun substitutes that you can fill several books describing them all. While it is correct to say that most orchids need a lot of light, after all, most of our pets come from the tropics and semi-tropics, it does not mean that they need lots of strong sunlight. In fact, about half of our orchids need some light shading during the hottest part of a summer day. We, in Canada, need to keep our orchids indoors for half the year. So, just as you have to take sun exposure slowly when going to Hawaii during our winters, the plants need to be hardened off, to get used to strong summer sun. You can usually tell when an orchid has enough light: the leaves are a bright, yellowish green. If the plant has dark green foliage, it will not be able to make flowers, so move it to a brighter spot or put up another light to shine on it. Most orchids cannot bloom without extra light here in the North. However, if your plant has leaves that are whitish-yellow, have pink edges or get large brown or burned black areas, they have too much light. You need to find out where, in nature, your orchid is at home, in order to fit the conditions to the plant. You can experiment, but remember that you cannot always make your environment to fit the plant, so you should get the plants that will fit into your environment.

WATERING & FEEDING

Most novice growers and also, experts, kill orchids by over-watering. There are times when some orchids cannot get enough moisture. For instance, you have a *Vanda* in a hanging basket; during the summer, you will have to run the water through it several times a day. And then there are other orchids that go completely dormant – they don't need water and fertilizer, just a gently spritz to simulate the nightly dew that falls. For example, in Mexico some areas don't have any rain all winter long but the dew keeps the plants alive.

It also depends on how your orchid is potted: clay pots and small pots dry out faster, large pots and plastic ones stay moist longer. A loose mix with mostly big chunks of bark will dry out quickly, a fine mix, or moss will keep the water a lot longer. Sometimes you may not have to water your moss-potted *Phalaenopsis*, inside a plastic pot, for three weeks.

During our dark, short winter days, the plants don't do much growing and thus won't need much feeding. I find the simplest fertilizer is one with even numbers – like 10-10-10. You can use whatever fertilizer you want to – although fish fertilizer is better applied when the plants are outdoors during the summer. Read books, ask questions, and look on the Internet, but mostly: observe your plants. In order to find out exactly what your plant needs, look on the label. It will tell you at least the genus so that you can look it up. Don't throw away the labels. I keep mine to keep the plant facing the same direction as it makes neater inflorescences because the flowers grow toward the light.

REPOTTING:

If you have any house plants, you know that they need repotting once in a while, as do orchids. It seems that every grower I meet has a special combination of potting materials that work best for her or him. There are many different media available: it used to be *Osmunda* fern, then bark, moss, charcoal, Pro-Mix, Styrofoam, Perlite and so on. Whatever works for you – keep using it. The best time to repot an orchid is when the roots begin to grow, usually in the spring. Take out all the old mix, clean up the roots and put the plant in a clean pot with clean mix. Water it right after potting and then leave

it in a humid, warm and half shady place for a few weeks – perhaps staked up so it does not wiggle and bruise the new roots, but do not over-water!

Of course, if a plant looks really sick, take it out of the pot and have a look – it may be sitting in mushy rotting mix that will not allow any air to get to the roots. Then it needs cleaning up and repotting, just as it will need help when the pot gets broken. Please remember to put the label back.

PESTS AND DISEASES:

Orchids are plants. Plants get bugs. Most of us are familiar with dealing with bugs. I recommend first of all, don't use heavy artillery for some little aphids, just squish them. Ask at your nursery store what method to use for which bug or slug. Orchids can also pick up damaging fungus, bacteria or sometimes, even virus. In the latter case, if you have tested a leaf with a virus test, and it comes out positive, you must just throw the plant out. Virus cannot be cured and it might spread to other plants, eventually, they will all stop blooming. Then you clean out the place and start all over again.

The Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) has all kinds of information sheets on how to grow individual orchids – geared for the Canadian grower. You will find these sheets on the COC website (and at the information table at our meetings and shows). The American Orchid Society (AOS) also has similar information but it does not quite address our Northern climate, with longer winters.

Ingrid Ostrander



Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting January 28th, 2014

Coelogyne cristata

The meeting of January 28th was held in the Garth Homer Centre. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. John welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them to please pay a loonie for their coffee or tea. John also asked people to mark their favourite plant with the plastic disk. Ingrid Ostrander and Pat van Adrichem presented the show table. We had one guest, Edie Irons, from California, who has a small orchid collection.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: Poul Hansen/Noreen Taylor moved that the minutes of the November 2013 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jane presented the financial report for the month of October and moved for acceptance, seconded by Diana Rowles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Congratulations to Poul Hanson and Diana Rowles for having plants awarded at the January judging in Richmond. Many hands were raised when Poul offered *Odontoglossum* seedlings.

Reminders:

- Diana spoke about the Spring Show and the need for volunteers, and trophy sponsors. She asked that people sign up on the volunteer sheets that were being passed around. She also showed the show poster and dollar off coupons and asked people to pick them up to distribute.

Other Reports:

1. **COC:** Ingrid pointed out the usefulness of the COC website, which listed shows happening all across Canada. She also asked if anyone was interested in writing a short article/paragraph about conservation to put into the COC newsletter.
2. **Membership:** Joyce was absent, but a few renewals and new members have recently signed up.
3. **Orchid culture classes:** Geoff Haywood said that Culture Workshops at GardenWorks are set up for Feb. 8th and 9th at multiple locations starting at 1:00 p.m. We need more than one volunteer per venue. There will be advertising on their websites and presenters will receive honorariums. We will also be able to put up posters for our show. Geoff, Ingrid, Svend, and Joe are all presenting. Geoff will send an email to remind members about these events (with time and dates) and to recruit more helpers.
4. **Plant Orders:** Justin and Art are still working on *Disa* orders with Joe. There are no new developments at this time.
5. **Programs:** Sasha has volunteered to do a talk about his recent trip to Polynesia and the wild orchids that he saw there. Ingrid also suggested a wonderful speaker, David, to discuss Orchid Species Conservation. We will discuss having him for a fall date as Sasha will fill the February spot. Members expressed interest in having this speaker. The rest of the spring is as follows:
March – Calvin Wong on Semi-hydroponic Growing
April – Peter & Inge Poot on *Stanhopea* and Related Genera
May – Mario Ferrusi on *Masdevallia* and *Dracula*
6. **Spring Show:** Report of Show Committee: Diana provided more detail, indicating show times, and volunteers that will be required. Kristi explained that members who have paintings done by Will Ostrander will be invited to enter these in the show - for display only. She asked that these members send her an email to give dimensions of their painting. Diana advised members that Show and Gala tickets are on sale at the membership desk. She informed members that we are “partnering” with Children's Health/Queen Alexandra Hospital for the show this year.

Coffee break and Prize Draws

Speaker: John introduced Patrick van Adrichem who gave us all some useful tips on making our plants happier. Members were very interested in the culture information and the show ran late because of various questions and the general excitement about getting their orchids to grow well!

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, 2014 at Garth Homer Centre.

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristi Leon, (for Kathryn Collins)

Reminders:

The Victoria Orchid Society website has a special page for people's special orchids. If you have a lovely bloom on your orchid and it is not time to take it to a show or even a meeting, share it by sending us a picture to put on the 'Members' Treasures' web page. This has been available for some time, but few people have taken advantage of it! I know that there are many beautiful, blooming orchids in your homes. Share them. Even smart phones take quality pictures now, so wander around your house or greenhouse and click away.



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.

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.

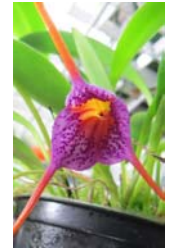
Membership fees are \$25.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for households. The Society membership year runs from September to September, but meetings are not held in July and August. Name tags are available for \$9.00, magnetized tags are \$11.00.

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 S, T & V 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.



Masdevallia glandulosa

Officers:

President John Taylor
 Past President Ingrid Ostrander
 Vice-president Diana Rowles
 Secretary Kathryn Collins
 Treasurer Jane Mason

Newsletter Editor: Diana Rowles

Web Master: Blair Humphrey

Proofreading: Joe Chow

Spring Show Committee: Kathryn Collins, Poul Hansen, Pat van Adrichem
 Art Macgregor, Diana Rowles, Noreen Taylor, Ingrid Ostrander, Nancy Cole
 Svend Munkholm, Coreen Kempling, Don Mills

In emergencies, call John Taylor at (250) 250 479-0146.

Directors:

Joyce Wilson
 Catherine Frutiger
 Coreen Kempling
 Nancy Cole
 Justin Denning
 Kristi Leon



Den. Himezakura 'Fujikko'

Shows & Opportunities

Orchid Fair, the Orchid Society of Alberta's Annual Show and Sale, is moving to a new place and time! We're excited to announce that this year's Fair will take place April 4 to 6 **at Hole's Enjoy Centre**, 101 Riel Drive, St. Albert. The show will feature spectacular orchid displays, orchid vendors from inside and outside Canada, and free seminars on orchid growing and related topics. The blooms will look especially good in the spacious display area and full natural sunlight of the Enjoy Centre, so save the date and join us!

For more information check the OSA website, www.orchidsalberta.com, or contact Show Chairman, Darrell Albert at darrell.albert@albert-it.com or [780-986-8504](tel:780-986-8504).



Classified Advertisements:



Oncidium Twinkle Westen
(*cheiroporum x ornithorhynchum*)

10% Discount from local stores.

Show membership card before purchase.

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