

Victoria Orchid Society



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Rick Rancourt's elegant Oakesara Niu Boy was members' first choice on the display table at the November general meeting.

Meetings:
2013
Jan. 22 nd
Feb. 26 th
Mar. 26 th
Apr. 23 rd
May 28 th
June 25 th

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

*Welcome to new member,
Richard Wong*



*Lc. Mini Purple
'Blue Pacific'*

From the Editor

Welcome to 2013! May your year be filled with beautiful blooms and pest-free plants.

The show season will be starting with a bang with the Alberta Orchid Society show at the end of February, the Victoria Orchid Society show in early March, followed within a month by the Vancouver Orchid Society show and the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show (See page 10 for details).

You will shortly be asked to volunteer in some capacity for our show on March 2nd & 3rd. Please plan to spend a few hours on that weekend. Good participation is critical for a successful show. Information on volunteer options and schedules will be sent around by email soon and a signup sheet will be available at the January meeting.

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

Welcome to another great year of orchids – and friendships!

For the 46 persons who attended our Christmas Party – it was a happy occasion, with tasty food, games and prizes, a lovely show table and happy faces. Thank you to all who helped make it go so well, especially Lioba Samer, Kathryn Collins and Diana Rowles. If I were to list all the names of our helpers and contributors, it would read almost like a membership list ☺.



Ingrid Ostrander

One piece of good news we have not had time to talk about is that we have a new AOS Student Judge in the person of Bryan Emery. Congratulations are in order to Bryan for being accepted by the AOS judging committee. If any others of you want to join our ranks, don't hesitate! What we now need just as ever, are your plants to judge. Please consider sending your orchids to an AOS judging. They don't need special papers for crossing a border, just your willingness to let the judges have a look at them. You might be surprised and pleased with the results.

If you are not too sure about what pesticide to use for which pest, look up the November 2012 COC newsletter. It has the most up-to-date information about these matters, especially for Canadian orchid growers.

The show committee is hard at work, getting things organized for our spring show. All our members need to come out and help – please. The ribbon judging needs about 24 persons to get the work done. This judging is always a lot of fun for all who participate. Each team has one or two experts and one or two non-experts, who will have a good time learning a little bit more about orchids. Who in our society would not want to have this opportunity? Please do sign up when the work sheets are passed around.

Joe Chow has managed to have, as our January speaker, none other than Pat van Adrichem, our local Phalaenopsis guru. Pat, of course grows other orchids besides the phals, so come and be ready to learn from a master grower.

See you at the meeting!

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.).



January 22nd meeting: Pat van Adrichem will present Orchids 101, basic guidelines for growers.

Pat and his wife Cathy have been growing orchids in North Saanich for nearly 30 years. Pat's father was a gardener at Butchart Gardens and Pat spent much of his childhood there, a great basis for his life-long passion for orchids.



He and Cathy own Kingfisher Orchids, a well-known name in the orchid community. They specialize in mainly warm growing orchids such as *Phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobiums*, and always provide beautiful displays at orchid shows. Pat and Cathy have been breeding and cloning orchids for 25 years, and have many of their crosses registered with the RHS in England. They have won over 20 American Orchid Society awards for Orchids.

Pat will be talking about the essential basics for keeping a new orchid alive and healthy.

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 co-chairs, Art Macgregor, Kathryn Collins, and Noreen Taylor will be providing more information at the January meeting. Be sure to pick up some posters at the meeting and deliver them to all your usual shopping venues. These do not necessarily have to be garden shops. Any place where you are a regular customer is likely to be prepared to display them: bakeries, yoga sites, pharmacies, hairdressers, and so forth.



Sign up schedules for volunteer tasks at the Show will be available at the January meeting.

Past Events

Nov. 27th meeting – Jonathan Littau presented an overview of Vanda Culture and the different species needs and foibles. He has grown Vandas for many years and has carefully researched their needs.

He described which hybrid Vandas will flourish in our growing conditions and which are more difficult because of the species climate requirements. Those living at a limited, low elevation are much more difficult to keep in artificial circumstances than those with a wider natural range and therefore, less stringent temperature requirements.

Sea level, narrow range:

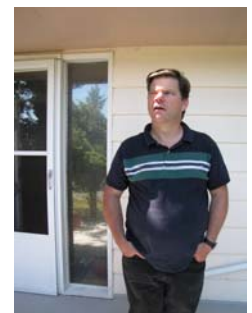
- *V. sanderiana* (main plant in hybridization) constant temp & rain
- *V. dearei* – 0-300M, very cold sensitive
- *V. lamelatta* 0-300M
- *V. insignis*, sweet scent, low elevation

Wide range of elevation

- *V. lilacina* 100-1000M (2.5cm flowers)
- Jonathan's favorite – *V. tessellate* (✂)

Cooler growers:

- *V. coerulea* – blue (9-10 cm) can take cold
- *V. cristata*



Dec. 11th, The Christmas Party

The Christmas Party featured some great prize draw items, superb food, and good company for all ages. It was well attended and ran smoothly and on schedule. Thanks to helpers, food providers and organizers.



Great Food



Display Table



Draw Table



Lookers



Winners



Game Winners



Almost Game Winners



Beautiful display plants

Profiles:



Kristi Leon, Director

Kristi has been a member of the Victoria Orchid Society for about a year. During that time her energy and enthusiasm have been brightening up the landscape at meetings and events. Despite her busy schedule: her university courses and small, twin boys, she has undertaken to become a director of the society and she brings many good ideas to the Executive table.

Kristi's first orchid was a yellow phalaenopsis, purchased about ten years ago from Thrifty Foods because it was so pretty and it was an orchid! Kristi is a windowsill grower, but she cannot wait to get a greenhouse (first, she needs a house, though!).

She currently manages an impressive collection on her windowsills: *Blc.* Samba Splendor, No id Mini Phal, No id Phal (maybe Brother Purple x Harlequin), No id Phal (white petals and sepals with purple lips), No id Dendrobium (yet to bloom nobile), *Den. kingianum*, (A few different variety keikis) *Den. kingianum* 'Sophie', *C. Ann Follis* 'Goldie Locks', *Den. Oriental Smile* 'Butterfly', *Ctna.* Capri 'Lea' x *C. maxima*, *Phal.* Jiaho's Pink Girl, *Paph.* Bo-Ying Chow (Joe's), and *Mtssa.* Aztec (Poul's), *Den.* Berry 'Oda' AM/AOS (Joe's).

Kristi has not yet taken an orchid trip, but one day she will get to visit some places in Brazil while visiting her in-laws.

Her Orchid story: *When I was a little girl our backyard was full of Calypso bulbosas and I used to pick them and put them in a cup. Sometimes I would make orchid chains out of them for my hair. I had no idea how special they really were, but loved it when the back yard was full of them. In fact, the second orchid I ever bought was a Calypso bulbosa. It lived for less than a week on my windowsill. Oops! Well, I learned a lot from that mistake, thanks to a visit to the Orchid show about seven years ago, and a chat with some guy named Joe.*

Life outside of orchids for Kristi: She is a 4th year Geography student at UVic. married with twin boys who are 4 years old. She says, *"My life is busy but I find that playing with my plants relaxes me. It must be rubbing off because now one of my boys will look at the pretty plants with me and tell me all about why they are "really nice"*.

Kristi is a great addition to the Executive 'brain trust' and is always ready to take on tasks. She has become involved in our FaceBook page and taken on the role of Show Secretary for the Spring Show.



New Member, Richard Wong, Artist

Richard Wong has recently joined the society and hopes to expand his portfolio to include watercolours of many kinds of orchids. Currently, birds are his favourite subjects. He kindly donated two bird prints for the Christmas prize draw even though he was not able to attend himself.

Richard retired after a 25-year career in the Ministry of Environment in 2009. He was searching for a hobby and his partner, Jackie, bought him a sketch pad in early 2011. He signed up for Chinese brush lessons with Kileasa Wong, the foremost teacher of traditional Chinese painting in Victoria. At the end of his second session of classes the instructor told him his work was "good enough to sell." See his work at richardwongwatercolors.ca

From this point, Wong, who has lived in Esquimalt for seven years, dove into the art world, expanding his horizons with Western brush technique and showing his work at the Victoria Look Show. During the show, he was approached by Greater Victoria Community Arts Council president, Bob Williams, who asked him to join the board.

Richard was resident artist at Abkhazi Gardens and artist in residence at Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites last July, where he taught an introduction to Chinese Brush Painting workshop.

We welcome him as a valuable new member to the Orchid Society.



Prize Draw donations

Growing various *Cattleya laelia* taken from articles by A.A. Chadwick.



L. lobata 'Fiesta'
x *L. Boa Vista*

Laelia lobata has the reputation of being a shy bloomer, but I have not found this to be true. It does like a good amount of sun and should be placed in the sunniest location in the greenhouse, although it should not receive so much sun that the leaves turn excessively yellow in color. The normal light-green leaf color recommended for all *Cattleyas* is fine, along with normal *Cattleya* temperatures of 58 F (14. C) night and 85 F (29.5 C) day.

Some growers suggest allowing *L. lobata* to grow over the edge of the pot because they have observed the plant produces its best flowers then. You can accomplish the same thing by putting the plant in a larger pot so the second and third year's growths will be able to root in the pot instead of in the open air. Most plants resent being cut up and repotted and will produce a growth and flowers the year after they are repotted that are not as good as they will be in the next two or three years. Newly repotted plants need a little tender loving care after repotting. Pot the plant only when it begins sending out new roots from the front pseudobulb. Place it in a clay pot because clay pots breathe, while plastic pots do not. Spray the plant frequently, but water it only lightly. Give it just enough water to encourage the new roots to go down into the potting medium. Increase the water slowly until the roots fill the pot. Overwatering a newly repotted plant is a sure way to produce a water-logged medium that will rot the new roots.

Laelia lobata is a tough plant. It is quite resistant to rotting and will take a lot of cultural abuse, but if you take care of it, it will reward you with a reliable production of four or five flowers every year. It normally flowers in April and May in the United States and will stay in bloom about a month.



L. purpurata var.
carnea 'Old Aunties'

Laelia purpurata has the same cultural requirements as the other large-flowered *Cattleya* species. It benefits from lots of sun and moving air and a temperature between 58–60 F (14.5–15.5 C) at night and 80–85 F (26.5–29.5 C) during the day. It usually begins sending up new growths in late summer and early autumn in the United States. These growths will be completed by mid-January or early February and buds will begin to form in the sheath after a short rest period. The plants will flower from late May into June, depending on the clone.

Give *L. purpurata* a few weeks' rest after it flowers by minimizing the watering, but do not let the pseudobulbs shrivel too much. Once the plant begins to grow, it requires lots of water, particularly as the growth elongates beyond 6 inches (15 cm). *Laelia purpurata* can develop some really large pseudobulbs, often exceeding 20 inches (50 cm) from the base of the pseudobulb to the tip of the leaf, if grown well.

— A.A. Chadwick. http://chadwickorchids.com/laelia_purpurata



Laelia anceps, a native of Mexico but also occurring more rarely in Guatemala and the Honduras, is one of the most common, yet one of the most satisfying orchids. Its ease of care makes it an ideal plant for the beginner as well as the connoisseur. Resembling clustertype Cattleyas 2" to 4" in size, *Laelia anceps*' lovely flowers occur in forms of lavender, white and blue, with two to four blooms on the ends of 18" to 24" inflorescences. One of the hardiest for cold tolerance of any of the Cattleya alliance, *Laelia anceps* are reported as tolerating lows of 24°F (-5°C) without any damage.

High temperatures, up to 90° or 100°, rarely trouble it as long as it gets water. The blooming season for *L. anceps* is customarily November through January. *Laelia anceps* is noted for being one of the best plants, in subtropical climates, to naturalize on trees around the garden, where regular garden watering is usually adequate. Many trees (except pines) are well suited for *Laelia anceps*. Oaks are among the best of trees, and jacardia, palms, citrus, fiejoa, dracinias & white birch are quite good. Plants should be tied or stapled (romex type) firmly to trunks and branches.

Light: This plant likes medium to high light, about 1500- 3500 ft/candles. Very low light is not adequate.

Water: Water frequently (weekly to daily, depending on conditions) throughout the growing season, which is mostly April through November. Water may be reduced in the winter dormant time, but is not necessary. It is often necessary to wash off the flower buds by rain or hose to keep the buds from sticking together.

Fertilizer: Regular feeding with a balanced fertilizer will enhance growth, particularly during the growing season of April through November.

Opportunities

AOS has gone digital. Starting with the January issue, *Orchids* is available for download to your computer, smart phone, ipad or tablet. All you need is a valid email address connected to your membership and your personal login. If you have explored the members only section of the AOS website, you are all set! If not, there are instructions on the site how to set up your own account.

Virus Kits

In November, we brought in an order of twenty-five virus kits. At that time, there was some interest in getting more kits. We need a minimum order of twenty kits to bring them in at \$8.00 a kit. Please email me or let me know at the January meeting whether you wish to be included in such an order.

Trips

Two trips which may be of interest were featured in the BCCGC newsletter recently:

BCCGC Cuba tour Feb. 18 – March 4 contact Tom Robertson tom@cuba1tours.com

Tour Italy's Gardens, April 22 – May 7/13

1 604 291-1332 or 1 800 665 0998, sti@sticanada.com www.sticanada.com

Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting November 27, 2012



Den. nobile
'Yellow Ribbon
Delight'

The meeting of November 27th 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 the acceptance of Poul Hansen and Deborah Ward as fully accredited judges with the AOS and pointed out the celebration cake Svend prepared in their honor. 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. Ingrid and Debb Ward then presented the show table. Shelly from CVIOS was our guest tonight.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: Art Macgregor/John Taylor moved that the minutes of the October 2012 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jane presented the financial reports for the month of October 2012, moved for acceptance, seconded by Henk Oudt.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Reports:

1. *AOS:* We have six calendars left.
2. *Membership:* We now have 67 members.
3. *Newsletter:* Diana announced we have virus kits for sale and can order more in January if we can put together an order for a minimum of 25.
4. *Plant Orders:* We may put together an order from Alan Koch from Gold Country next spring. Ingrid invited everyone to come to the Christmas party and in addition to bringing a pot luck item, a draw prize, and plants for the display table. Please remember something for the Mustard Seed Bank.
5. *Plant Sales:* The donated plants sold well, only 9 left. Someone packed their plants last month in boxes that did not belong to them – please return them. Joe's *Phrag Calurum* went missing last month so please check your purchases to see if you have it.
6. *Prize Draw:* The name tag ticket is blue.
7. *Programs:* December 11th is the Christmas party and a sign up sheet will be passed around.
8. *Spring Show:* Our poster and \$1 off coupons are ready. Please take a poster for the nurseries only and in January we'll pass the rest of them out. Art Macgregor, as Show Chair, asked every member to come out and volunteer and perhaps bring family and friend to help also.

New Business

MOTION: The Executive Council recommends that we pay each speaker an honorarium of \$100 whether or not they bring plants to sell and members who present a program get \$50.00. This motion was moved by Bryan Emery and seconded by Art Macgregor.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Program: Jonathan Littau presented a very informative talk and slide show on Vandas.

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 22nd, 2013 at Garth Homer Centre.

Adjournment: The Vice President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40.p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Collins



C. skinneri

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 & W for the January 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		John Taylor	
Editor	Diana Rowles	Kristi Leon	
Spring Show Chairs Art Macgregor, Kathryn Collins & Noreen Taylor			
In emergencies, call Ingrid Ostrander at (250) 652-0753.			



Paph. Susan Booth

Upcoming Shows:

February 20th-24th, Orchid Society of Alberta Orchid Fair
MacEwan South Campus
7319 29th Avenue, Edmonton, Alta.

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
Van Dusen 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.

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