

# Victoria Orchid Society



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*Don Mills' beautiful Cattleya warneri var T. Moore was voted first choice on the display table at the May general meeting.*

### Meetings: Spring 2012

June 26  
July 7 - BBQ

### Fall 2012

Sept. 25  
Oct. 23  
Nov. 27

Members with last names starting with F, G, & H are asked to bring goodies for the June meeting.



▲ *Mps. vexillaria 'Volunteer Park' CCE/AOS, 91 pts, 84 flowers and 5 buds*

*Welcome new member Kathy Kelly!*

**Congratulations Poul Hansen!  
Poul had three of his Miltoniopsis awarded at the Richmond Judging on June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

*Also, Mps. Kennie 'Diana' HCC/AOS, 76 pts. Venus x vexillaria, 30 flowers and 32 buds*



▲ *Mps. vexillaria 'Poul's Super Oscuro' AM/AOS, CCM/AOS, 86 pts, 44 flowers and 11 buds*

### From the Editor

This is your last chance to get your barbecue tickets. Florence's barbecue is a great event and the food is fabulous. See details on page 4. Photos of the display table plants will not be taken before the June meeting to allow space for setting up of the auction. Nor will there be member plant sales.

As there will be no prize draws at the June meeting to make room for the auction, there is no *Surprise Orchid* (✂ identified by this symbol) in the newsletter. Watch for it again in September.

*Diana Rowles*

[www.victoriaorchidsociety.com](http://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. The orchids from the display table each meeting are now posted on the web. Previous newsletters can also be accessed from the website.

*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](mailto:enviroed@telus.net)).*

*Logo photo D. Rowles*

## President's Message

This upcoming meeting will be very interesting:

We will have a plant auction to start with – Bryan Emery will be the auctioneer and I hope that we shall have many interested visitors at the meeting – their pockets full of money that wants to be spent on orchids!

After that, there will be the AGM – very brief, with elections organized by Noreen Taylor, who has everything firmly under control – so you won't have to quiver and worry that we will pounce on you to be shanghaied – we just need a good number of our members to help with the voting – ok?

After the June meeting is over, you may think that “We will see you in September” – not so! On the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, Saturday, Florence Davis has again invited us for a Barbecue at her lovely home – this is the highlight of our society's social life and we hope that many of you will be able to come. Later in the summer, there will be several open houses with tours of Victoria members' greenhouses and Geoff Haywood will allow us to see how he manages to grow those stunning plants in his apartment. You will be notified of the times and places to visit.

During the summer, we will also have our inventories done and then, when everything is ship-shape, you will come to our September meeting, eager to start another orchid season! See you there.

Ingrid Ostrander

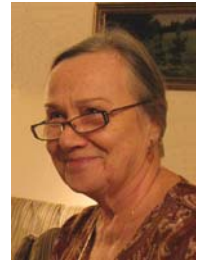
## Reminders:

*Ecuagenera* will be bringing plants to the Fraser Valley Show in October. Remember to check out the list that was sent around with plant prices and place your order by October 1<sup>st</sup> if you wish to have your plants delivered to the show for pick up. You will have to order from *Ecuagenera*'s website and pay ahead of time, but if you cannot make it to the show, Poul Hansen will pick up your plants and bring them back to Victoria.

## Upcoming Events:

### June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, BC Blooms Garden Club Displays at Government House

We are putting an orchid display into this event. Three volunteers will be at our tables to answer questions and provide information on the society. The display will not be judged and there will be no sales, but we hope to stimulate interest in the society. There is no charge for entry to the displays and the event will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have enough volunteers for the regular shifts, but other members are certainly welcome to come by, enjoy the display and spell the regular shift for coffee.



Ingrid Ostrander

### Spring 2012

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Auction

July 7<sup>th</sup> – Barbecue at  
Florence Davis' home

## June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting: VicOS Orchid Auction

This month's meeting of the Victoria Orchid Society will be different from the regular meetings in that it will start with an orchid auction. At 6:30 p.m. you may start browsing the plants up for auction. The Bidding will begin at about 7:00 p.m. and should take about an hour.



*Guarianthe skinneri*

We will have more than 40 plants going on the block, presented by our expert auctioneer, Bryan Emery. You will pick up a numbered paddle and a personal record form from the prize draw table to use in the bidding, as soon as you enter.

There will be no prize draw at this meeting because of the auction and the member's display plants should be taken directly to the back table in the coffee area this month, so as not to interfere with the setting up of the auction.

The Annual General Meeting will occur as soon as the auction is over and members are reminded to be sure to stay for this meeting to elect your executive for next year – We need to have a quorum!

The plants on the display table will be presented after a short coffee break and the meeting will conclude with a very short business meeting.

The meeting ends between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m. The Plant Doctor will not be available to help with individual's plant issues this month as he is managing the auction, but will return in September to help you with orchid issues for 15 minutes before the start of the meeting (7:10-7:25 p.m.).



*Joe Chow*

## July 7<sup>th</sup>, Florence's fantastic barbecue (pictures from last year's event)



Tickets will be available at the June meeting. They are \$20/person and one may choose steak, chicken or vegetarian. The meal also includes fresh rolls, great salads and desserts, most notably, Florence's *Pavlova*.

The barbecue is held in Florence's beautiful garden and her greenhouse is open for viewing. Guests arrive at 4:00 p.m. to eat at 5:00 p.m.



Mark the date on your calendar and buy your tickets. Guest numbers must be confirmed by the June meeting.

## August 11th - Vancouver Orchid Society Plant Sale of Orchids and Companion Plants

This event will occur at the Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens from 10 am to 4 pm. on Saturday, Aug. 11th. Anyone starved of orchid exposure over the summer may wish to make an excursion to Vancouver for this event. It is always a great place to pick up some new orchids and other cool plants.

*From: Vancouver Orchid Society newsletter, June, 2012.*

## Past Events

### May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting – Speaker Joe Chow – Orchids in Your Backyard

Joe gave an interesting slide show and talk about native orchids, identifying those ones likely to be seen on the coast. I am sure that many people didn't realize how many native orchids we have, I didn't!



*Cephalanthera austinae*

### Apologies to Verne Smythe of the Okanagan Orchid Society and to our own Ingrid Ostrander for mixing up the credits on the article on wild orchids in the May newsletter.

*My error made it appear that Verne was identifying plants as growing in the Okanagan that were not there and, did not acknowledge Ingrid's expertise and excellent writing of the article "Orchids in the Wild – Keep them there", which referred to coastal orchids, not those found in the Okanagan.*

*Sincere apologies to both experts!*

*Diana*

At the meeting, Don Mills collected his rosettes from the Vancouver Orchid Society show. When he brought the VicOS plants back from Vancouver, he nobly gave up his rosettes to others winners, as there were not sufficient to go around at the time. Justice is finally achieved!



### Judging Centre news



*Abu Salleh*

At the AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center (Richmond)'s monthly meeting on May 12, 2012, no AOS awards were granted.

However, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, our own Poul Hansen, gained three significant awards: As I have not yet received the official announcements from Abu, along with Judy Higham's beautiful pictures, the photos on the front page were kindly supplied by Adele Hansen. Look for the official pictures in the September edition of the newsletter.

### **Executive Profile**



John has been a member of the Victoria Orchid Society for five years, during which time he has been involved in many Society activities. Recently, he has headed our search for advertisers for the web and newsletter, eloquently putting the options to various retailers. He has been a Director for the 2011-2012 year.

### **John Taylor**

John's interest in orchids began in high school when he bought a *Cattleya* hybrid. It never bloomed. Ten years later, he bought a *Paphiopedilum venustum* as a room decoration, because he was intrigued by its bizarrely coloured and warty flower.

John grows his orchids in several situations (windowsill, lights, solarium, greenhouse). For most of the last 30 years he has grown them under lights or on a window sill, but last summer he had a small (8' x 12') greenhouse built.

Currently, John grows a mixture of orchids, but the largest number are *Cattleya* species, *Catasetums* and various African species, although he has been getting more *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums* lately.

John has had opportunities to travel in rain forest areas of South America, Africa and Asia and has seen a variety of orchids growing in the wild. He also spent some time in Western Australia, which has a truly spectacular terrestrial orchid flora.

**Orchid stories:** *Growing a small collection of orchids in the house for many years was a definite learning experience. I became familiar with a surprising variety of physiological and pathological ailments that orchids can suffer under less than ideal conditions. Recently I acquired a greenhouse (And watched my collection of 20-30 plants grow to over 100 in an amazingly short period of time). The original plants are beginning to recover from the lack of air movement, lack of humidity, constant temperatures and shared water that they were exposed to for so many years.*

In his life outside of orchids, John has been working as a plant scientist most of his life, so he spends a lot of time thinking about plants one way or another. He was formerly a Research Scientist with Agriculture Canada and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary. Currently, he works for Health Canada. He has a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology /Biochemistry.

What a great asset to have in our orchid society, and he is such a nice person as well!

*Victoria Orchid Society  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting June 28, 2011*

The meeting of June 28, 2011 was held at the Garth Homer Centre. President Ingrid Ostrander called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. We had a quorum with 35 members present.

**Secretary's Report:** MOTION: Shirley Page/Geoff Haywood moved that the minutes of the June, 2010 Annual General Meeting be approved and accepted as published.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Reports:** Reports were prepared by the President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair and Show Treasurer and are attached to the minutes. The President's and Show Treasurer's reports were read.

**Auditor's Report:** Jane Mason presented the financial report for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2011 and explained how the HST has affected the Society.

MOTION: Jane moved for acceptance, seconded by Geoff Haywood.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Election of Officers:** Conducted by Art Macgregor. The following slate of nominees was presented:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>      | Ingrid Ostrander  |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Diana Rowles  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Kathryn Collins   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Jane Mason  |
| <b>Directors:</b>     | Joyce Wilson, Diana Rowles, Florence Davis,<br>Catherine Frutiger, Coreen Kempling, John Taylor,<br>Nancy Cole and Jonathan Littau. |

Art called for nominations from the floor three times after announcing the candidates. No further nominations were forthcoming so all were elected by acclamation.

Program Chair: Joe Chow will be our Program Chairperson, but will not be a director.

By-Laws: MOTION: Blair Humphrey moved we accept the proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws, seconded by Poul Hansen.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Cheque Signing Personnel:** MOTION: Jane Mason moved the following members be authorized to sign cheques: Treasurer, Jane Mason; President, Ingrid Ostrander; Vice President, Diana Rowles and Secretary, Kathryn Collins, seconded Jonathan Littau.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was requested by Barb Judson at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Geoff Haywood.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathryn Collins  
Secretary

**Victoria Orchid Society  
Minutes of General Meeting May 22, 2012**



*Phrag. Grande*

The meeting of May 22nd was held in the Garth Homer Centre. President Ingrid Ostrander called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Ingrid welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that they sign the attendance sheet. Kathy Kelly (who already has 7 orchids) joined the Society tonight and Brian was our guest.

We started with the show table, with Poul Hansen and Don Mills commenting.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: Poul Hansen/Nancy Cole moved that the minutes of the April 2012 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jane presented the financial report for the month of April 2012, moved for acceptance, seconded by Diana Rowles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Reports:

1. Secretary: A card was sent to D.A. Evans for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
2. Membership: Joyce reported we have 86 members.
3. Newsletter: Ingrid reported on the Edmonton water concentration and noted that we have one of the purest waters in the world in B.C.
4. AOS: All awards will now cost only \$36.00 – member or not.
5. COC: Their AGM will be in Burlington, Ont. October 26/27.
6. Library: Nancy would like all books returned by the June meeting.
7. Programs: The June program will be a special auction, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please start grooming the plants you intend to donate; we do not want inferior items and/or discards. Please bring only orchid plants. Society will get 50% or as stated on the sheets. Who wants sheets? Send Joe the name(s) of your contribution by the end of May so he can have a picture of it during the auction. After the auction we will ask the visitors where they heard about the auction.
8. BBQ: Will be July 7<sup>th</sup> at Florence Davis'. Get tickets from David for \$20.00 and choose beef, chicken or vegetarian. Bring your own chair, plate & cutlery and something for the prize draw.
9. Prize Draw: There will be a free draw ticket for anyone bringing in the name of the hidden plant name from the newsletter. All new members receive 5 free draw tickets.
10. June Elections: Noreen asked if anyone would like to join the executive and become a director.
11. Upcoming Shows: Foothills OS June 23/24 with *ChingHua, Ecuagenera, TenShin*.
12. Open House: At Poul Hansen's this Sunday 10:00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Ingrid asked if anyone would host an open house during the summer – Geoff Haywood said he would have one in June or July.
13. Workshop: Ingrid will hold a workshop on setting up a show display. Anyone interested in attending, please contact her.
14. Plant Sales: Diana reminded members about ordering personally from *Ecuagenera* and the plants will be at the Fraser Valley show – Poul can pick up but individuals must pay in advance and make sure it is for the Victoria group.

New Business

- Goodies for June should be brought by members with last names beginning with F, G & H.
- Coffee will be served at the beginning of the meeting and again, with goodies, at the break.
- Any plants brought in by 6:30 p.m. will be photographed by Diana for the website.
- Don Mills received a Best in Class and an AOS nomination at Vancouver.
- We have an exhibit at Government House June 21-23. Please sign up to assist at our display.

MOTION: Joyce Wilson proposed we give Will Ostrander a life membership, seconded by Jane Mason.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Speaker: Joe Chow gave a talk and slide show on native orchids of B.C.

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 26th at Garth Homer Centre.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathryn Collins

**Don't Cut That Spike!** by Helen Hersh

***Some orchids flower longer if you do not remove the inflorescence***

Orchids have been on earth since before the age of the dinosaur, and their unusual ways of survival have fascinate the orchid grower. One of the most wonderful traits exhibited by many different types of orchids is their ability to bloom sequentially on the same inflorescence, sometimes for months or even years. Therefore, it is wise to leave inflorescences on some orchids to allow them to fulfill their bloom potential. A varied selection of these, both species and hybrids, can be grown in the home.

### **The Butterfly Orchids**

Perhaps one of the most famous of these orchids is *Psychopsis papilio* (formerly *Oncidium papilio*). Distinctly different on close examination are the other species in this genus, including *Psychopsis sanderae*, *Psychopsis versteegianum* and *Psychopsis krameria-nium*. A few of the best-known hybrids are *Psychopsis* Butterfly and *Psychopsis* Mendenhall (registered as oncidiums). The oval pseudobulbs of psychopsis are flat and topped with one rigid, elongated, oval leaf. Depending on the light level, the leaves can vary from deep matte green to having a delightful overlay of rusty red peppering. The long, wiry inflorescences emerge from the base of mature pseudobulbs. A well-grown plant can bear 10 or more spikes and will bloom every three to five weeks all year for many years until the old spikes die. These orchids require bright light and should be grown in western or southern windows.



*Psychopsis papilio*

*Psychopsis papilio* and the related hybrids suffer from root disturbance and should be kept potbound. Grow them in clay containers so there is no danger of overwatering. When it is necessary to repot, gently break the container with a hammer and ease out the plant, damaging as few roots as possible. After carefully pulling off loose debris and decayed roots, place the plant in a container one inch larger than the previous one. A bark mix can be placed around the edge and gently worked into place. Watering can begin immediately as before and in most cases the plant will not show any adverse signs of being re-potted. Usual watering for this type of orchid is twice a week with a weak fertilizer (¼ strength solution of regular fertilizer) applied immediately after a thorough watering. Apply a low-nitrogen fertilizer for the best blooming on all plants grown in the home.

*Helen Hersh raises orchids on windowsills and under lights in her New York City apartment.  
From: AOS Orchids May 1997*



## 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 F, G & H for the June meeting.

The Victoria Orchid Society Newsletter is published monthly, around the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



*Paph malipoense*

## Who Does What?

|                |                      |                         |                                   |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President      | ➤ Ingrid Ostrander   | Membership Chair        | ➤ Joyce Wilson                    |
| Vice-president | ➤ Diana Rowles       | Library Committee       | ➤ Nancy Cole, Tim Hayes           |
| Secretary      | ➤ Kathryn Collins    | Spring Show Chair       | ➤ Art Macgregor                   |
| Treasurer      | ➤ Jane Mason         | Plant Sales             | ➤ Rick Rancourt & Coreen Kempling |
| Past President | ➤ Nancy Miklic       | Prize Draw              | ➤ Florence Davis/Heather Ord      |
| Directors:     | ➤ Joyce Wilson       | Plant Orders            | ➤ Debb Ward                       |
|                | ➤ Catherine Frutiger | AOS Rep                 | ➤ Jonathan Littau                 |
|                | ➤ Coreen Kempling    | COC Rep                 | ➤ Ingrid Ostrander                |
|                | ➤ Florence Davis     | Culture Classes         | ➤ Dave McElderry                  |
|                | ➤ Nancy Cole         | Web Page                | ➤ Blair Humphrey                  |
|                | ➤ Jonathan Littau    | Plant Photos            | ➤ Diana Rowles, Donna Stuart      |
|                | ➤ John Taylor        | Fall Show Chair         | ➤ Dave McElderry                  |
|                | ➤ Dave McElderry     | Programs                | ➤ Joe Chow                        |
|                |                      | Newsletter Editor       | ➤ Diana Rowles                    |
|                |                      | Newsletter proof reader | ➤ Joe Chow                        |
|                |                      | Executive Spokesman     | ➤ Ingrid Ostrander                |
|                |                      | Potting material sales  | ➤ Catherine Frutiger              |
|                |                      | 50/50 Draw              | ➤ Catherine Frutiger              |
|                |                      | Hospitality             | ➤ Lioba Samer                     |
|                |                      | Promotion Rep           | ➤ John Taylor                     |

*In emergencies, call Ingrid Ostrander at (250) 652-0753.*

