

Victoria Orchid Society



Inside this issue:

- 2 President's Message
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 4 Past Events
- 5 Judging Centre news
- 6 Orchids in the Wild
- 7 Minutes of March meeting
- 8 Member Profile
- 9 Society Information
- 10 Classifieds



The magnificent Cymbidium Music Box Dancer, grown by Svend Munkholm was voted the best plant on the display table at the April meeting.

**Meetings:
Spring 2012**

May 22
June 26

Members with last names starting with C, D, & E are asked to bring goodies for the May meeting.



Paphiopedilum Hsinying Carlos 'Lava Glow' FCC/AOS (90 points),

Congratulations, Jonathan

This month's AOS bulletin, Orchids (Vol 81 No.4, April 2012) is honouring those growers whose plants received an FCC/AOS in 2011.

◀ *Jonathan Littau had two plants awarded last year:* ▶

Very few of the individuals listed received more than a single such award.



Paphiopedilum Memoria Rex Van Delden 'Sunstripe' FCC/AOS (93 points)

From the Editor

Check out the article in the AOS Bulletin. You may also want to take a look at the BC Council of Garden Clubs Bulletin. Our Auction advertisement appears prominently there and other interesting events for gardeners are listed (<http://www.bcgardenclubs.com/>).

Remember to check out the *Surprise Orchid* (✂ identified by this symbol) somewhere in the newsletter. Anyone who writes the name of this orchid on a piece of paper and delivers it to the prize draw table before the draw will get a free ticket for the prize draw that evening.

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. 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).

Logo photo D. Rowles

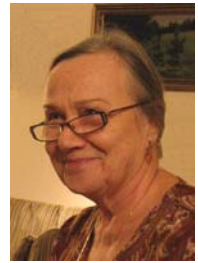
President's Message

There will be two more meetings of our group before the summer break. Before this, there will be a flower show at Government House, on June 23rd and 24th. We shall participate in this and will need some flowering plants and a good number of our members to man the exhibit. This sounds very exciting and is held so all the local flower clubs can get together in honour of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Anniversary. Let us proudly show our orchids at this event – under a tent so the plants should be all right.

Then, on July 7th, Florence Davis has once again invited us to hold our barbeque at her home, in her beautiful garden. The tickets for this event are sold at the membership table, \$20.00 per person and you can choose the main course: chicken, beef or vegetarian.

Later on in August, we hope to find a member or two who will offer his growing area for an open house so our members can see how others manage to grow orchids in their individual environments. If you are willing to host an open house, please tell one of our executive members or me – thank you!

Ingrid Ostrander



Ingrid Ostrander

Spring 2012

May 22nd – Joe Chow,
Backyard orchids
June 26th – Auction
July 7th – Barbecue at
Florence Davis' home

Reminders:

The photographing of the display table plants did not work well last meeting. Lighter evenings are affecting my camera focus, so look for the photography table in a different place next meeting, against a solid wall somewhere rather than near light-leaking windows. We hope that you enjoy seeing your plants on the Society website. The process is now much easier as people bringing plants are now adhering to the steps outlined below:

- Make out a list of all your plants' names with the your name at the top.
- Place the list on the photography table with your plants on the left hand side of the table.
- Collect the plants from the right hand side of the table after the photographs have been taken and put them on the display table.

Thank you for doing this, it does make help us to get photographs of a lot of lovely plants.

Joe Chow assists with the editing process by correcting spelling and plant names for publishing.

Thank you.

Diana & Donna

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. This meeting consists of the presentation of the plants on the display table, a short (as possible) 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.).



May 28th meeting – Speaker Joe Chow – Orchids in Your Backyard

Joe has grown orchids and been a member of the Victoria Orchid Society for 22 years. “Like most people I started with a few orchids which I grew inside the house. In the early years I would buy anything that looked attractive. But as time passed I found that there are orchids that do not do well for me. I now grow mostly three genera in my greenhouse: *Phragmipedium* (South American ladyslippers), *Paphiopedilum* (Southeast Asian ladyslippers) and *Masdevallias* (cool growing, small Andean orchids).”



Cypripedium montanum
(mountain lady's-slipper)

At this meeting, Joe will speak about the wild orchids that grow around us and can be found with careful looking. The two photos on the right are examples of orchids found at Mission Creek Greenway last June (from Okanagan Orchid Society newsletter).



Corallorhiza striata var.
striata (striped coralroot)

Websites that will give you more information on such plants are:

<http://www.nativeorchid.org/mborchids.htm>

<http://www.wanativeorchids.com/nativeorchids.html>

http://www.osrbg.ca/orchid_native.html

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/orchidsbc.html>

June 26th meeting: VicOS Orchid Auction

The orchid society will be holding an orchid auction in the June meeting at 7 p.m. The regular meeting will follow.

Please donate orchids only. Now is the time to repot and divide your orchids. Your divisions will be appreciated. Garden clubs and the public will be invited.

A photo of your plant will be shown on a computer monitor when your plant comes up for bidding. If you have a photo of your blooms (jpg), please send it to lanfajoe@gmail.com by June 1, 2012. If you don't have a photo, send Joe the name of your orchid(s) by June 1 and he will try to find photos on the Web.

Forms were sent out with an earlier email, but you may also pick up a copy at the May meeting. You are asked to fill it out and bring to the June meeting with your plant(s).

July 7th, Florence's fantastic barbecue

Tickets will be available at the May meeting. They are \$20/person and one may choose steak or chicken. 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

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

Past Events

April 14th - Workshop at Cannor

The workshop at Cannor Nurseries was elegantly presented by Joe Chow, Ingrid Ostrander and Nancy Cole assisted. The sixteen attendees were enthusiastic and a number of them requested a free electronic copy of the newsletter. These were sent out in late April.

April 24, Meeting – Speaker Bryan Emery

Bryan Emery spoke on the Pleurothallis Alliance. As always, his talk was concise, humorous and very informative.



Some notes from Bryan's talk:

Pleurothallids are new world orchids, that grow in cloud forests, bathed in mist. *Bryan & Coreen present the display plants*

1. Restrepia – 50 species, that like bright light and are tolerant of low humidity and drying.
2. Porroglossum – have lips that snap shut and lovely stiff red veined new growth. They like cool to intermediate temperatures and high humidity.
3. Scaphosepalum – like cool to intermediate temperatures and don't flower without high humidity (70%+).
4. Stelis – triangular shape, like cool to intermediate temperatures. They don't need very bright light and can handle lower humidity than some other Pleurothallis. Flowers close at night and also when there is a drop in humidity.
5. Zootrophion – bird's beak flowers. These like intermediate to warm temperatures, need bright light and evenly moist but not soggy mix.
6. Trisetella – seagull flowers (up to 2" flowers). They like cool to cool-intermediate temperatures, light shade and high humidity (60%+).
7. Octomeria – small to large plants with small to mid size flowers, that need bright light and warmer temperatures, with high humidity.
8. Dryadella (Masdevallia-like shape) flowers at the leaf base. They like cool to intermediate temperatures.
9. Barbosella – have lots of flowers at one time. They like cool temperatures and bright light. They are ramblers. Long leaved varieties like to be potted, short leaved ones, to be mounted.
10. Polyanta – have thick fleshy leaves and like bright light. Masdevallia Alaticaulia (eg. Trochilias) can take more warmth than other Masdevallias.
11. Byrsella – some have fishy smell but are very robust.
12. Regalia (includes princeps) are sequential bloomers (flowers last 10-21 days). They like high light and evenly moist mix.
13. Masdevallia (main group) – coccinea, veitchiana, uniflora, caudata (long points on compact plant), condorensis (tiny plant, flowers twice plant size). These all like cool to cold areas best. Do not allow to dry out. Fragrant Masdevallia are rare, glandulosa is one.
14. Dracula ☼ – need very high humidity. Dracula lotax is more tolerant than others and will grow well under lights or on a windowsill.
15. Pleurothallis have clamshell shaped flowers on big leaves. They have many names (kissing slug orchids pleurothallis sarracenia) some are rambling but some have a compact growth habit. Thick leaved varieties can grow in house, but thin leaved ones need high humidity.

Watch for bean yellow virus, which is carried by other plants (eg. Cana lily – gold flecks and silvery streaky patters) and spread by aphids. New growth will have silver streaking as it is growing that may turn black over time.

April 28th - Workshop at Marigold Nursery

The workshop held at Marigold Nursery drew 18 people as well as passers-by who listened in for a few minutes during the two hour presentation.

Poul had taken many of his own plants and gave the attendees a good overview of the variety of orchids and the range of their habitats. Many were obviously thrilled by the exposure to non-Phalaenopsis blooms.



Poul re-potted a “crispy” Phalaenopsis for one lady and tore apart one of his own plants to re-pot, presenting the flowering spikes to members of the audience. They were delighted with their prizes (see picture at upper right).

A really good workshop



Judging Centre news



Abu Salleh

At the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society show judging on April 13, 2012, the following AOS awards were granted:

Masdevallia helenae ‘Florence Davis’ CHM/AOS 82pts . ➤
The award is provisional pending species identification.
Exhibitor: Bryan Emery



Epidendrum blepharoclinium ‘Judy Turner’ CHM/AOS 82pts
The award is provisional pending species identification. ➤
Exhibitor: Bryan Emery



Wilsonara Kolibri, HCC/AOS 78pts
(*Wilsonara* Intermezzo x *Oncidium nobile*) . . . ➤
Exhibitor: Henk Oudt



AOS Show Trophy
Exhibitor: Bryan Emery ➤



Orchids in the wild – Keep them there

(From the Okanagan Orchid Society newsletter, June 2011)

Trying to Keep Native Orchids in the Garden?

Right from the start, I have to warn you that this is not recommended!

As most of us know, the native Canadian orchids are terrestrial herbs that go dormant during the winter. Two of the most common ones, having circumpolar distribution are *Cypripedium* with several species and *Calypso bulbosa*. There are also Tway Blades (*Listera*), Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes*), Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera*) and some saprophytic ones like Phantom Orchids (*Cephalanthera austinae*), Coral Root Orchids (*Corallorhiza*) and several others. The locally common yellow Lady Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus* and others species closely related) is a fairly robust plant, growing 30 - 40 cm high; the yellow flowers can be 10 cm across and smell like roses. The much smaller rosy *Calypso bulbosa* grows only about 15 cm tall, blooms between April – May, having one small leaf per plant and starts its dormancy in the summer.



Cephalanthera austinae

Some people have successfully transplanted some *Cypripedium*s into their gardens, when the wild plants came from very nearby to save them from “Road Improvements”. Please, do not try to even save the *Calypsos* – they will never make it away from their homes. You may have a slim chance to help wild orchids survive if they come from an area that is very close to your garden. Do not try to establish wild Canadian orchids in your yard when they come from climates and habitats different from your particular area. Our gardens are not natural environments – they have been disturbed and manipulated for years. The wild orchids need their natural ecosystem in which they have evolved over millennia. Move them away from their homes and they will die; they may perhaps linger for a few years, but will not stay for long. This goes particularly for the saprophytic plants – please do leave them alone!

There are many wild orchids in our country, in bogs, in mountain meadows, in ditches, in dry shrubby grounds, in cow pastures, in forest clearings – wherever you see them, admire them, take photos but please: DON'T DIG THEM UP!

You can read about them on the internet and I have found a few books very useful:

[Guide to Orchids of North America](#), by W. Petrie, (Hancock House Publ.)

[The Orchids of British Columbia](#), by A.F. Szczawinsky (BC Provincial Museum Publ.)

[Orchids of Oregon](#), by Rick Burian et al. (Oregon Orchid Societies Publ.)

The nice thing about these three publications is that they have distribution maps.



Corallorhiza maculata

**Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting April 24, 2012**



Phrag. caudatum var. fortuna

The meeting of April 24th 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 and Gerald Puttersgill were our guests tonight.

Tonight we again started with the show table, with Bryan Emery commenting and Coreen Kempling assisting, followed by two speakers from the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, Jan Hemmings and Sue Wright, who advised us of their fundraising efforts to replace the destroyed pavilion.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jane presented the financial report for the month of March 2012, moved for acceptance, seconded by Geoff Haywood.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Reports:

1. **Secretary:** A sympathy card was sent to Shirley Page for the passing of her husband, Bill.
2. **Spring Show:** Kathryn reported on the financial success of the show and thanked Art for his hard work.
3. **Memberships:** In Joyce's absence, Dave is sitting in and is selling tickets to the summer BBQ for \$20 each to be held at the home of Florence Davis on July 7th.
4. **Newsletter:** Diana read an email she received from Joan Agnew.
5. **Website:** We now have our first ad for The Indoor Jungle.
6. **Library:** Nancy would like all books returned by the June meeting.
7. **Programs:** Joe Chow will speak in May on backyard orchids. Ingrid made the following announcement: 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 pictures of them during the auction.
8. **Spring Show:** Art requested a motion to set up an ad hoc committee to look into improving the 2013 show. He also said he we need more commitment from more members so a minority of the members are not burdened with the majority of the work.

MOTION: Art Macgregor moved we organize an Ad Hoc committee to study site locations and job assignments for next year's show, seconded by Bryan Emery.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **Plant Sales:** Nanaimo has cancelled their order to Clackamas Orchids in Oregon but will be ordering from Cloud's 12 Orchids in Ontario. Anyone wishing plants from Cloud can join their order. Ecuagenera will be at the Fraser Valley show in the fall and if anyone wishes to place an individual order from their website and pay for it in advance, Ecuagenera will bring the plants to the FVOS show where they can be picked up. Poul has also offered bring the plants back to Victoria after the judging.

10. **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.
11. **June Elections:** Noreen asked if anyone would like to join the executive and become a director.
12. **Nanaimo Show:** Thanks go to Art Macgregor for taking the plants up and to Nancy Cole and Florence and her son Michael Davis for setting up the display and registering the plants. Thanks also to everyone who supplied those plants and Diana and Ingrid for taking down the display and bringing it home. Henk won best Oncidium and received an HCC/AOS for his *Wilsonara* Kolibri, Poul won best Maxillaria and Miltonia and best Special award for Best First Bloom Seedling, Svend won best Cattleya and Reserve Champion, and best of Paphiopedilum Class.
13. **Workshops:** We have a workshop at Marigold this weekend. Poul, David and Diana will be there.

New Business

- Goodies for May should be brought by members with last names beginning with C, D and E.
- Coffee will be served at the beginning of the meeting and again with goodies at the break.
- *BC Blooms* is hosting a flower/garden exhibit June 21-23 at Government House and we have been invited to participate.

MOTION: Noreen Taylor suggested we should enter a display at Government House, seconded by Geoff Haywood.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Speaker: Following the coffee break and prize draws, Bryan Emery gave a talk and slide show on Pleurothallids.

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

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Collins

Member Profile



Nancy Cole, Director & Librarian

Nancy has been a member of the Victoria Orchid Society for three years. As well as being an active Director, she manages the library, handling loans, book purchases, and inventory.

Her first orchids were Phalaenopsis and Cattleya which she purchased in January 2010. She loves orchids and needed to enjoy her new home, which is the perfect setting for lush flowers. She grows them very successfully on her windowsills and the counter areas in her kitchen.

Her current collection of orchids comprises ten Cattleyas, six Phalaenopsis, five Paphiopedilums, three Dendrobiums, and one Miltonia (at present count and growing). She says that most of her orchids are growing well, but that she is having difficulty in getting them to bloom. Summer with brighter light is coming. With the large windows in her lovely home, blooms cannot be far away.

Apart from looking after her orchids and working hard for the Executive, Nancy is involved in Newcomers and is now taking up watercolour painting.

She is a great addition to the Executive.

Watch for a profile of John Taylor, Director, in next month's edition.

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 C, D & E for the May 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.



Masd strobilii

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.

