

Victoria Orchid Society



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Poul Hansen's elegant C. labiata 'Ken Girard' was chosen as best plant on the display table at the October meeting.

Meetings:

2009

- Nov 24th
- Dec 8th – Xmas party

2010

- Jan 26th
- Feb 23rd
- Mar 23rd
- Apr 27th
- May 25th
- June 22nd



From the Editor

Goodies for the November meeting are requested from those members with last names beginning with S, T, U, & V.

Blc Morning Glory 'Rimar' HCC/AOS

Welcome to our newest members, Aurafidelite Arindam, and Stephen & Jeanette Titus. We look forward to getting to know you at future meetings and at the Christmas Party.

Diana Rowles

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).

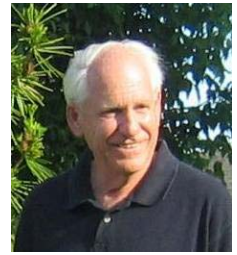
Be sure to check out the Society's website at <http://victoriaorchidsociety.com/>

Logo photo D.W. Smith

The President's Message

The Culture of Orchid Growers and Orchid Societies

We think a lot about the culture of our plants. We study their light, temperature, and water needs. We pot and repot them, spray them, and do all we can to tease them into flowering. And it usually works, to our surprise and delight. But what about us, the growers and the society? How are we doing? Not so well says a recent Orchid Digest editorial. Membership in orchid societies is declining.



Art Macgregor

New young members are rare. Why? Orchids have seldom been more available (witness the recent FVOS show – vendors from all over North and South America as well as Taiwan). Prices have seldom been lower (a typical orchid costs about the same as 1980-90). Why then the apparent loss of interest in being a grower? Some say competition from TV, the internet, and a thousand other activities leads to fragmentation of the “market” – just too many other ways to spend an evening. Others say the mystique of the orchid has gone because of the effects of meristemming (“everyone has one of those”); Walmart and Home Depot (orchids at the check-out); and the internet (no need to go to an evening meeting to get information). All the above may be contributing factors. So too is the cost of energy – plants may be cheaper but the cost of heating is way up. How many are planning a new big greenhouse?

So, what to do? Here are some ideas to get you thinking, to help us make changes:

- 1) Make the meetings more fun – shorten the “business” part – more time for the orchid – we’re experimenting with this.
- 2) Try a different time of day or week; the CVIOS at Nanaimo has Saturday noon meetings. People are awake and excited; they have to be pushed out the door at 2:30-3:00.
- 3) Emphasize the home grower more – the solarium, windowsill grower. Greenhouse growers are a minority. They are important however, because they do provide a large proportion of the plants we see. Can we satisfy both these groups?
- 4) Try for speakers who can relate to the home grower more specifically.

Upcoming Speakers

Nov- Mini-presentations

*Jan – Koichi Nakatani
Tokyo Orchid Show*

*Feb – Linda Gileksen
integrated greenhouse
pest management*

*Mar – Howard Ginsberg
Phalaenopsis*

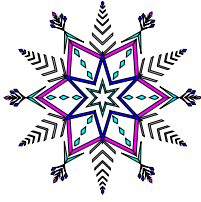
Clearly we need to be alert to current trends. If you have any ideas about how we can encourage growers of all types, we will all benefit. Please speak to me or any member of your executive. Your input could be crucial to maintaining and nurturing the hobby we all love.

**Art Macgregor
President.**

Upcoming Events

The November 24th meeting will feature mini-presentations by some of the experts of the Society who will address various aspects of orchid growing. There will be two 25-30 minute sessions, (both will be accompanied by practical demonstrations). People can alternate between them, making a full hour:

- a) *"The birds and the bees"* - Jonathon Littau - hybridizing from concept to flower, to pollen, to flask
- b) *Orchid culture* - potting, mounting, media, watering - whatever is of interest - Poul Hansen and Art Macgregor



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday December 8, 2009

7:30pm – 10:00pm

Garth Homer Centre

I hope everyone can attend our annual Christmas party. It's a fun filled event and a great way to get to know other members of the society.

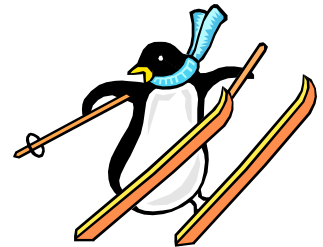
We will have Christmas music playing in the background and there will be no business done so there won't be any plant sales, nor will the library be open.

It will start with a great pot luck, a sign up sheet will be passed at the November meeting. The usual things we need are appys, sandwiches, and of course lots of desserts. Further information on food preparation and facilities will be available at the November meeting.



There will be brown bag prize draws so please bring a prize or two. Unlike the regular meetings the prizes don't have to be orchid related. There will also be a display table.

Last, but definitely not least we will collect non-perishable food for the Mustard Seed Food Bank. Every year there seem to be more and more people who need their services so please be generous.



Reminders

Membership renewal

Joyce will be accepting new memberships and renewals at the November meeting. It will help to speed up the procedure if you have your form filled out when you arrive. Forms are on the back page of the newsletter. Please remember to renew. This will be your last newsletter if you do not renew by the end of December. You will also not be listed in the Member directory, which will come out in January.

Past Events

October 17th - 16th - 18th FVOS Show

The Fraser Valley Orchid Society put on a great show! There were 460 plants total in show, of which 399 plants were entered for AOS judging; (apparently many vendors, among some others, do not enter their display plants).

There were 27 AOS nominations, but only three actual awards: Koichi Nakatani of Vancouver won 2 awards for a Phal. (HCC 77 pts) and a Vanda (HCC 78 pts).

Pat van Adrichem won the prestigious CCE - Certificate of Cultural Excellence (91 pts.) for his Grand Champion plant, *Den. victoria-reginae*.

Victoria O.S. showed it's growing prowess again, receiving four Best of Class awards:

- Cattleya group - *Lc. C.G. Roebling*, grown by Svend Munkholm
- Masdevallia - *Masd. Golden Tiger 'Samer'* grown by Joe Chow ➤
- Phragmipedium - *Phrag. Grande* grown by Shirley Page
- Dendrobium - *Den. victoria-reginae* grown by Pat van Adrichem



VicOS display



The Society also brought home many ribbons:

- 12 first*
- 10 second*
- 2 third*



The CVIOS display by Bryan Emery and Mike Miller won the COC trophy and the COC President's Award (with 40 plants on their table). ➤

Bryan received a nomination for a Habinaria. Florence Davis won the Diana Burritt award for her Epigenium, which was also nominated.



Photo competition



There were many vendors with a wide range of orchids for sale.



Bryan's table



Ching Hua sale table



As well as one with Cannibal plants

The October 27th meeting featured Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids. He gave a fascinating presentation on mini and compact Cattleyas despite our faulty projector which washed the colour out of his slides. He brought some lovely plants for sale and many of us took advantage of this opportunity to add to our collections.



CVIOS kindly shared their notes on Alan's presentation on Miniature Cattleyas with us. Thank you Vivian, Laurie, Bryan and Mike.



Cultural Ideas

Fertilizer is absorbed in the first 20 – 25 minutes. The rest just concentrates around the roots and can cause salts to build-up. Thirty minutes after fertilizing flush with plain water to remove the surplus salts. This is especially important with plants that cannot tolerate salts.

Micro nutrition is more important than macro nutrition with our orchids. We should be looking at adding calcium as it helps the plant fight diseases, and is a factor in flowering. Dolomite (20 mesh, not 65 mesh in size) or oyster shell [available at feed stores] is recommended, but not bonemeal, as bonemeal does not have the necessary magnesium. Alan puts the dolomite lime directly into his potting mix, but we can supplement our pots- ½ tsp per 3 inch pot, ¾ tsp per 4 inch pot, 1 tsp per 5 inch pot. Sprinkle on top of medium every 6 months. When our new growths turn black and die, it usually indicates a calcium deficiency and a secondary fungal infection.

Use Albion liquid Calcium or 20-mesh Dolomite lime in mix and every six months. Iron is another important factor in disease prevention and flowering. Alan uses liquid iron sulphate every flowering. Make sure it is sulphate.

When potting into our preferred mix and watered in, we should now open a fresh bottle of 3 % hydrogen peroxide, and pour over the plant and through the pot until it comes out the bottom. The oxygen in the solution will kill the fungal spores in the pot and encourage root tip elongation. The Hydrogen Peroxide can also be used on Phals that have crown rot (use 3 times, 1 week apart). Cinnamon is only 15 % effective as hydrogen peroxide which is 99% effective.

Bare root imported plants should not be soaked in sugar water, as sugar can encourage fungal problems. For our recent imports, we need only soak them for a short time in water with 1/8 strength fertilizer. After the orchids have soaked, they get potted up. (*Note: Thrive Alive with its Vitamin B would be good here. Also really dehydrated plants will need several soakings.)



An old time formula for mites and pests is 1/3 70% isopropyl alcohol (to dry the critters), 1/3 Murphy Oil Soap (to suffocate them) and 1/3 distilled water to spread it out. The Murphy Oil Soap should be diluted as per label instructions before measuring the 1/3 into the mixture. Use distilled water so as to not affect the oil. For the mites that cause sheaths to dry, Alan said we should use it at night in the bracts covering the pseudobulbs of plants, not on the leaves.

There should be at least 20% organic matter in our inorganic potting mixes or else the fertilizer is not buffered, which strongly influences nutrient availability.

Miltoniopsis carry a latent fungus and when they are transplanted in warm weather they can turn orange, which is orange rot. It is the heat that brings it on.

Red pigment (anthocyanin) in the leaves of our plants means that the light is blocked so the chlorophyll does not work and there is less photosynthesis. The plant is not growing well and will decline and slowly die because it is receiving too much light.

The Ripiculus Laelias should be potted in clay pots with aquarium gravel up to the last half inch, then moss. Make sure they get the Calcium and Iron. (*Note: Granite grit from the feed store may work as well and comes in three grades.)



Any orchid that comes from an area that never dries out cannot tolerate salt build-up in the media (*Disa*, *Den. cuthbertsonii*, *Sophronitis coccinea*, *Stanhopia*, *Pleurothalids*).

Plant Ideas

- *Ctna* Why Not is a weed and virtually indestructible. This characteristic usually continues in hybridization. (*Ctna* Why Not 'Red Gold' purchased from Alan at meeting) ➤
- *Cattleya walkeriana* photosynthesizes in its roots as well as its leaves and should either be grown mounted or in clear pots. (*Note: This is true of any plant with green coloured root, especially if they are very flat.)



- *Cattleya nobilior* needs a dry period of 3 months of no water in winter, starting around December 1st.
- *Leptotes bicolor* should double in size each year and should dry between watering.
- *Cattleya schilleriana* - repot when root tips are growing as it breathes through its roots. (*Note: Most orchid roots need air in their mix because there is gas exchange going on.)
- Crosses with *Cattleya luteola* and *Laelia pumila* var. *nobilis*, grow from the base of big trees, (*Laelia pumila* 'Black Diamond' is a nobilis form so look for it in breeding) require lower light levels than Phals (400 fc), thus make excellent choices, as well as crosses containing them, for growing under lights and on windowsills.
- Sc Beaufort (*S. coccinea* x *C. luteola*) has round flowers which are long lasting. *C. Orpetii* (*L. pumila* x *S. coccinea*) makes a great parent, blooming multiple times per year.
- *Laelia bradei* and *L. briegei* make for neat, tight, upright growth, so if they are in a cross the plant should be tidy, upright, take little space and hold the flowers well above the foliage.
- Look for tetraploid, 4N, bred plants, as they are an improvement over their parents, have better flowers, frequently blooming more than once a year and are easier to grow.
- *Sophranitis coccinea* in the breeding helps create a multi lead, tightly growing plant shape.



Judging center

On October 3, 2009 at the Foothills Orchid Society show judging in Calgary, the following AOS awards were granted:

- *Phalaenopsis celebesis* 'Carol Anne' HCC/AOS 77pts
Exhibitor: Darrell Albert (1)
- *Catasetum* Fanfare 'Shawna' CCM/AOS 84pts
(*Ctism. expansum* x *Ctism. saccatum*) (2)
Exhibitor: Heinz and Lothar Auschrat
- AOS Show Trophy
Exhibitor: Foothills Orchid Society
- Artistic Certificate
Exhibitor: Orchid Species Preservation Foundation



1



Abu Salleh



2

Photos by Doug Savage

At the AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center (Vancouver)'s monthly meeting on October 10, 2009, no AOS awards were granted.

The AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center (Vancouver) meets every second Saturday of the month, at 12:00 noon, at the Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond B.C. (Chair: Russ Volker, 604-465-8374, russvolker@gmail.com).

Our next monthly meeting will be on Saturday, November 14, 2009.

Abu Salleh
PNWJC

October 31st, Workshop at GardenWorks

Twenty three people attended the workshop held at the GardenWorks classroom. Joe Chow gave an excellent introduction to the culture of orchids, addressing participants' questions and outlining basic guidelines for healthy orchids. He was supported by Svend Munkholm and Poul Hansen, who offered tips based upon their own experiences of growing prize orchids.

A number of plants were re-potted and a Phalaenopsis, repotted by Joe as the first example, was won by Anne in a prize draw.

The experts then circulated to help individuals with their specific questions about the plants that they had brought with them.

The assembled group was enthusiastic and attentive and a number of people indicated that they intended to visit one of our meetings to find out more about the Society.



Individual help from the experts



Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting October 26, 2009



*Wanda Shum's
Paph, Mall Show*

The meeting of October 26, 2009 was held in the Garth Homer Centre. President Art Macgregor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. We had 2 new members, Janette & Steve Titus and one guest, Leslie Philips.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: Noreen Taylor/Bryan Emery moved that the minutes of the September 2009 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jane Mason presented the financial reports for the month of September 2009, moved for acceptance, seconded by Ingrid Ostrander.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Executive Report:

1. Christmas Party: Noreen Taylor announced the results of the questionnaire for the Christmas party and again questioned the members on their preferences. A pot luck dinner at Garth Homer won out, with prize draw, show table and activities.
2. Hillside Show – The show was a success – we had few vendors but sold lots. Thanks to Diana for her hard work to get volunteers lined up.
3. Fraser Valley Show – We had about 35 plants on 2 tables and Svend Munkholm got Best Catt, Shirley Page had Best Phrag, Joe Chow had Best Masd, Poul Hansen had Best First Bloom Seedling and Best Paph, and Best of Show went to Pat van Adrichem as well as a CCE. We also received many other first, second & third ribbons.
4. Canadian Orchid Congress – There will be an increase in insurance premiums from \$1.00 per member to \$1.50 over the next two years.
5. November Program – It will be presented by our own members and the details will be announced in the November newsletter.

Show Table: Debb Ward and Alan Koch presented the display table.

Speaker: Following the coffee break and prize draws, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids gave a slide presentation and talk on “Mini-Catts – Past and Future”.

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at Garth Homer Centre.

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathryn Collins

Society Information

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

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



L. lobata Fiesta
x L. lobata Boa Vista

Plant sales begin at 7:15 pm and the meeting runs from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm.

Membership fees are \$20.00 for individuals, \$30.00 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 at the meeting and goodies are provided by members in rotation, based upon the initial letter of their last names. Members with last names beginning with S, T, U, & V are asked to bring goodies to the November 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. Those with no email access may ask for a mailed copy. (We are trying to cut down our mailing costs.)

Advertising 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 are defined here as those with a PST number.

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

Who Does What?

President	➤ Art Macgregor	Membership Chair	➤ Joyce Wilson
Vice-president	➤ Noreen Taylor	Library Committee	➤ Pat Hendrickson
Secretary	➤ Kathryn Collins	Spring Show Chair	➤ Nancy Miklic
Treasurer	➤ Jane Mason	Show Treasurer	➤ Kathryn Collins
Past President	➤ Don Miklic	Plant Sales	➤ Poul Hansen/Angela Lougheed/Wanda Shum
Directors:	➤ Joyce Wilson	Prize Draw	➤ Florence Davis/Dave McElderry
	➤ Diana Rowles	Plant Orders	➤ Debb Ward
	➤ Catherine Frutiger	AOS Rep	➤ Jonathan Littau
	➤ Dave McElderry	COC Rep	➤ Art Macgregor
	➤ Wanda Shum	Culture Classes	➤ Dave McElderry
	➤ Florence Davis	Web Page	➤ Kurtis Herperger
	➤ Pat Hendrickson	Plant Photos	➤ Diana Rowles
	➤ Poul Hansen	Hillside Show	➤ Dave McElderry
	➤ Angie Lougheed	Programs	➤ Art Macgregor
		Newsletter Editor	➤ Diana Rowles
		Newsletter proof reader	➤ Joe Chow
		Executive Spokesman	➤ Art Macgregor
		Christmas Party	➤ Noreen Taylor
		Mentorship program	➤ Noreen Taylor
		50/50 Draw	➤ Catherine Frutiger
		Coffee management	➤ Lioba Samer

In emergencies, call Art Macgregor at 250-217-4390

Classified Advertisements:

For Sale:

1. Two (2) 400 watt high pressure sodium lights, completely assembled and ready to plug in \$85each (with light sensor) **See Henk Oudt or phone (250) 472-6820**
2. Franson's are reducing their collection. They will have the following available:
 - numerous Cattleya species: aurantiaca, bowringiana, eldorado, forbesii, harrisoniae, interglossa, intermedia, jenmanii, labiata, lawrenciana, loddigessii, maxima, mossiae, quadricolor, sivam, skinnerii, skinneri alba, trianae, warneri, walkeriana.
 - Laelia species: crispa, jongheana, lobata, lundii, purpurata, perrinii, tenebrosa.
 - Dendrobiums: fimbriatum, formidable, superbum, revolutum,
 - *Brassia: verrucosa, Calanthe vestita,*
 - some *paphs, phrags, stanhopias*, and others
 - NUMEROUS *laeliacattleyas (Lc's), Brassielaeliacattleyas (Blc's), a few Brassiocattleyas (Bc's) and a few soprohlaeliocattleyas (Slc's) and others.*

Prices are expected to average \$20 per plant with smaller ones or those not in great shape going for \$5, \$10 or \$15 and larger plants or specimens going for \$25 or more. We are willing to make deals on larger sales as we really wish to reduce our inventory.

We would like anyone interested to call for an appointment if they wish to come to our greenhouse as we are still working people here in Duncan, managing the apartment building. Our e-mail address is hottof@shaw.ca, our cell # (250) 701-2010, home phone number where you can leave a message is (250) 715-0899.

Jeannette and Hilding Franson



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Russ Davis


572 Peto Place
Victoria, BC V8Z 2K6

wk: 250-727-0067
cell: 250-744-6714
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Victoria Orchid Society

1199 Tattersall Drive Victoria, B.C. V8P 1Y8

www.victoriaorchidsociety.ca

Membership Form

For 2009 / 2010

Please print clearly

Miltonia Venus
Victoria Orchid Society's
Flower Emblem

New Renewal Update

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Am enclosing a cheque for : Family membership @ \$30.00

Single membership @ \$20.00

Please order pinned name tags in my/our name @ \$9.00

Please order magnetic name tags in my/our name @ \$11.00

Make cheques payable to Victoria Orchid Society in Canadian funds.

Send to Victoria Orchid Society at 1199 Tattersall Drive, Victoria, B.C. V8P 1Y8

How many years have you been growing Orchids? _____

What are your favourite genera? _____

How many orchid plants are you growing? _____

What are your growing conditions? (check any that applies)

Greenhouse Sq. Footage House Windowsill Lights

Are you a member of the American Orchid Society? Yes No

If a beginner, would you like us to provide you with a mentor to help you get started growing? Yes No

The yearly **Membership Directory** will be available in January. Please indicate your preferences.

Yes! I would like to be listed.

Yes, but without my telephone number.

No! I do not want to be listed.

Yes, please list my email address.

The monthly newsletter

I wish to receive the newsletter by email - sent in PDF format and blind copied to recipients

I wish to receive the newsletter by Canada Post

Revised August, 2009