

Victoria Orchid Society



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Art Macgregor's extraordinary Habenara medusa was chosen as the best plant on the October members' display table. (Judy Higham photo)

Meetings:
Fall
2013

Nov. 26th
 Dec 10th - Party

Members with last names starting with **L, M, & N** are asked to bring goodies for the November meeting.



From the Editor

Wilmore Henry Ostrander, 1928 – 2013 has passed away peacefully in his sleep – released now from a long illness, leaving Ingrid, his wife of 27 years. A funeral service will be held for him on Nov. 15th, 2013, 2:00 p.m. at the First Memorial Funeral Home, 4725 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC. Donations may be made to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation.

Will Ostrander, a lifetime member of the Victoria Orchid Society, will be sadly missed. Condolences to Ingrid, also life member and Past President of the Society.

Remember to renew your membership by the end of the month or this will be your last newsletter. The form is on page 10 of this newsletter.

Once again there will be a free prize draw ticket for those people spotting the *Surprise Orchid* (✂ identified by this symbol) in the newsletter. Watch for it, you could be a winner.

Diana Rowles

www.victoriaorchidsociety.com

Check out our website for information about the society, upcoming events, plant registration for shows, regulations for bringing orchids into Canada, and what books are in our library and links to interesting sites. The orchids from the display table each meeting are now posted on the web.

Contributions to the newsletter can be made up to 14 days before the next meeting date by contacting me by phone or email. (250-385-8888 or enviroed@telus.net).

Logo photo D. Rowles



John Taylor

President’s Message:

At the last meeting we had an excellent talk by Richard Fraser on growing hardy orchids. In Canada we are blessed with a great variety of fine species. One of the most beautiful of all is *Cypripedium reginae*. For anyone who has seen it growing in the wild it is an unforgettable sight. One place where it can be seen easily is the Purdon Conservation Area near Ottawa. In the 1930s Joe Purdon discovered a few clumps of the orchid on his property and took it upon himself to look after them. Today there are something in the neighbourhood of 16,000 plants. He could just as easily have decided to drain his bog and converted it into farmland.

It is sometimes forgotten that one of the functions of an orchid society is the conservation of orchids. When I belonged to the David Thompson Orchid Society in Alberta, we rescued hundreds of yellow lady slippers from a nearby wooded area that was being turned into a roadway. It’s difficult to say how many survived, but hopefully a fair number. I brought several out to BC with me but they lasted only two winters before disappearing. As Richard Fraser pointed out, they don’t adapt well to mild wet winters. On the Prairies they would have been frozen solid and dry all winter long.

Fall 2013

*Nov. 26th – Bryan Emery,
Some Interesting Genera:
Identification and Cultivation*

Dec. 10th – Xmas Party

The yellow lady slipper does seem to accommodate itself a little to the changing environment: they often grow alongside drainage ditches. But there is at least one orchid that seems to positively revel in the man-made landscape. Both in Ontario where I grew up and in BC, the ubiquitous helleborine, an alien, native to Europe, has shown up in the garden unannounced and unwanted. Clearly the definition of a weed. It is only when you get down on your knees and look closely at the flower that you know you are seeing an orchid. Enough to make me feel a little guilty when I pull it. I also note that Fraser’s Thimble Farms sells plants of the helleborine for \$15.00 each.

Upcoming Events:

The monthly meeting of the Victoria Orchid Society is held on the fourth Tuesday of every month except July, August and December, starting at 7:30 p.m. The plants on the display table are presented by experts, followed by a short business meeting, a coffee break with a prize draw of plants and orchid related material, and a featured presentation. The meeting ends between 9:30 and 9:45 p.m.

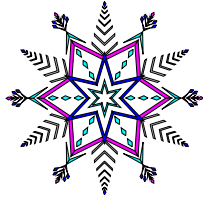
November 26th general meeting, Bryan Emery will present

Some Interesting Genera: Identification & Cultivation



Bryan was born on the island and has always lived here. He started growing orchids when he was 10 years old. His great grandma had a couple and they interested him. He began reading about orchids and has never stopped. He quickly ended up with a few hundred plants.

Bryan’s knowledge of orchid taxonomy and culture is impressive and the glorious blooms on his wide range of orchids attest to this expertise. He has always been most interested in miniatures or unusual species. His current collection is around 1500 plants, with over half being pleurothallids (pleurothallis masdevallia dracula restripia etc.).



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday December 10, 2013

6:15 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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.

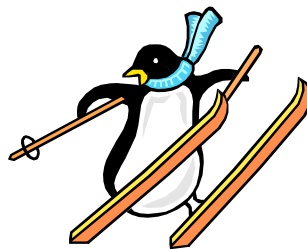
We will have Christmas music playing in the background and there will be no business done so there won't be any plant sales, nor will the library be open.

The evening will start with a great pot luck dinner, a sign up sheet will be passed at the November meeting. The usual things we need are main courses, salads, and of course lots of desserts. Further information on food preparation and facilities will be available at the November meeting. Please bring a plate, cutlery and any beverage that you wish to the party. Tea and coffee will be available.

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. They should not be wrapped. There will also be a display table, so bring your plants in bloom.



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.



The Christmas Party is a great evening filled with good food, beautiful orchids and great prizes.

Members are asked to bring some food: main course, appies, salads, or desserts. Jane will be passing around a list at the November meeting to identify items that people will be bringing so that we will end up with a balance.

We have a brown bag prize draw, so please bring an item or two. They need not be orchid related but festive is nice (Christmas baking always goes well). Each item is paired with a brown bag so that people can choose which item they wish to win. Prize draw tickets are sold by the arm's length at the start of the evening.

Past Events

October 22nd, Richard Fraser of Fraser's Thimble Farms

At the October 22, 2013 meeting of the Victoria Orchid Society, Richard Fraser of Fraser's Thimble Farms told us all about hardy orchids, those that can actually grow in our B.C. gardens.



Cyp. formosanum

Richard spoke about a variety of hardy orchids, *Bletilla*, *Calanthe*, *Dactylorhiza*, *Goodyera*, *Habenaria*, *Pogonia*, *Platanthera* and *Pleione*. The stars of the show, however, were the *Cypripedium*, illustrated by beautiful slides and detailed information about each species and a number of hybrids. Twenty-two species and more than thirty hybrids were discussed.

Some are difficult to grow in gardens in the lower mainland because of the amount of rain. They are very sensitive to dampness in the winter, but will thrive in the very cold dry winters of Alberta and Saskatchewan (e.g. *Cyp. acaule*). Others do quite well in well-drained soil in lower mainland gardens, as long as they are protected from rain and kept quite dry through the winter months (e.g. *Cyp. parviflorum*). Growers who keep plants in pots can adapt the seasonal environment to their needs, even keeping some plants in the fridge for periods of time. Cool dryness in the winter is the important factor.

Richard, with many years of experience behind him, suggested that often the information one can find on the internet does not actually apply in local conditions. He claims that *Cypripedium* are quite forgiving in regards to potting mixes as long as they can be kept dry and they do not react negatively to chlorinated water. If they are in the ground, but sheltered from rain, they are less affected by moisture than if kept in pots.

Fraser's *Cypripedium*s that came in four inch pots should be moved to a larger pot after two or three years of growth. They should be fertilized in spring when the first bud appears above ground, with an application of granular fertilizer (6-8-6) a couple of times during the growing season.

Cypripedium usually come to life around the first week of May, but tend to be earlier if the weather has been cold. Leaves are produced first, with the flower spike only developing after the leaves are almost done. The flowers range from yellows and greens and whites through pinks, some carrying a single bloom and others having multiple blooms. European growers have cultivated them for many years, but fewer North American sources exist. Fraser's Thimble Farms is one of the few places that you can see a wide range of these lovely, hardy orchids.

November 9th, Workshop at GardenWorks – Geoffrey Haywood, Diana Rowles assisting

A small group of enthusiastic participants gathered at the classroom at Gardenworks, to find out about keeping orchids healthy and blooming. Geoffrey outlined basic rules for *Phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium* and demonstrated potting and how to keep roots healthy. *Cymbidium*s were also discussed.



Nov 2/3 -Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale

An intrepid foursome braved the roaring gales for a Saturday visit to the show.



Bryan's Display ➤



Lots of plants to buy but hard decisions to make

Awards for VicOS growers

Show Grand Champion Mt. Cheam Award and Best Cattleya species or hybrid	<i>Blc. Victoria</i> 'Ambrosia' HCC/AOS	Poul Hansen
Show Reserve Grand Champion and Best Paphiopedilum: Also awarded an AM/AOS	<i>Paph. Temptation</i> (<i>kolopakingii x philippense</i>)	Poul Hansen
Best in Maxillaria Tribe:	<i>Z. Artur Elle</i> "Glenmorrie" AM/AOS	Svend Munkholm
Best Miltonia:	<i>Mps. Butterfly x self,</i>	Poul Hansen
Best Other in Oncidium Group:	<i>Mtssa. Minbrach</i> 'Spots'	Poul Hansen
Best Plant Made, Grown and flowered by a Society Member:	<i>Mps. Sunshine x roezlii var. xanthina</i>	Poul Hansen
Best Species of Botanical Interest– Gerry Emerson:	<i>Habenaria medusa</i>	Art Macgregor
Best Display by a Visiting Society by Kathryn, Florence and Poul	Victoria Orchid Society	



VicOS members' ribbons

*Blue: 14
Red: 12
White: 2*

All awarded plants photographed by Judy Higham

Where do Aphids Go in Winter?

by Brian Milligan (from SOOS newsletter , May 2005 Volume 40, Issue 5)
Reprinted from the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc website <http://www.oscov.asn.au>

Fortunately for our orchids, they all die of cold, especially in frosty weather. But if that's so, how can aphids reappear in spring? It's because the crafty devils make sure that they lay a good supply of eggs in nooks and crannies before they die, that's why. These eggs, unlike their parents, are unaffected by the cold and remain dormant until the warmer days of spring arrive.

When the eggs hatch, all of the young aphids are wingless and female. After a few days they begin to bear live young, with no intervention or assistance from male aphids (there are none at this stage!). The rate of reproduction is incredible - it has been calculated that if all survived, the progeny of a single aphid after ten generations would weigh more than the entire human population of China!! Actually, that calculation was done many years ago - it may take eleven generations today!

Fortunately, for both us and our plants, aphids have many enemies, as well as being sensitive to the cold. They are eaten by birds and also by a variety of other insects. Ladybirds, in particular, are particularly fond of aphids and can eat 30-40 per hour! What greedy little devils ladybirds are, which explains why they're sold commercially as predators of aphids.

Aphids are sap suckers. The aphid drills a hole in the soft new foliage with her beak and then sucks the sap, which is freely available at that stage. She has greater difficulty as the growth ages, because it's harder for her to drill a hole, and there is also less sap in the older growth. Many aphids break their beaks and then die of starvation.

As the cooler days of autumn approach, there is a change in the life cycle. Both male and female aphids are born at this time. Both are born with wings, presumably to provide greater mobility for their sexual adventures. These females lay eggs, not live aphids, and so the species prepares itself to survive another icy winter.

Orchids are readily infested by aphids (except in winter), which soon reach plague proportions unless control measures are implemented. Some growers squirt them off the foliage when watering as a control measure. But this practice fails to dislodge all of them and the survivors soon breed replacements. It's often argued that "they don't eat much" but this isn't strictly true - they probably suck sufficient sap to retard the development of the new growths.

More important, however, is the possibility that they can transfer virus from one plant to another - the virus recently found in native dendrobiums is almost certainly transmitted by aphids. Maybe the aphids are wingless in spring and summer but they can certainly fly about in autumn. Also, if you hang your plants from vertical wire mesh, as I do, the aphids can fall from one plant to lower ones, regardless of the season. Therefore I spray my plants with an insecticide as soon as any aphids appear. Almost any insecticide is effective. For small outbreaks I use one of the many pressure pack sprays available at plant nurseries, taking care to hold the can at least 300 mm from the plant (to avoid frost burn caused by rapid evaporation of the propellant). For larger outbreaks I use Orthene®®, a wettable powder, applied as an aqueous solution; unfortunately, it is not available from nurseries and is only sold in kilogram amounts at horticulturalist supply outlets.

Much of the information in this article was gleaned from an article written by the late Crosbie Morrison over fifty years ago. Many readers of my vintage will remember Crosbie Morrison for his fascinating nature talks on radio in the 1940s and 1950s. At that time one referred to one aphid, but two aphids. However, newer dictionaries give the option of aphid or aphid for a single individual, while a group of them can be called aphids or aphides.



Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting October 22, 2013

Slc. Haw Yuan Star 'Lovely Girl'

The meeting of October 22nd was held in the Garth Homer Centre. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. John welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them to please pay a loonie for their coffee or tea. Noreen told us she was serving both regular and decaffeinated coffee and if anyone wished she would purchase hot chocolate, but no one showed any interest. John also said to mark their favourite plant with the plastic disk. Betty joined us as a guest. Pat and Art presented the show table.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: Art Macgregor/Don Mills moved that the minutes of the September 2013 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reminders:

- Time to renew your membership.
- Get your plants ready for the VicOS display table at the FVOS show on the first weekend of November. Kathryn will send out an email regarding their registration. Take plants to Poul's October 30th.
- Christmas Party is December 10th.

Other Reports:

1. Orchid culture classes: Geoff Haywood has a workshop at Gardenworks on November 9th at 1:00 p.m.
2. Membership: Kristi is assisting Joyce. We have 50 members.
3. Plant Orders: Justin is seeking more information.
4. Programs: We will have an announcement in the next newsletter.
5. Spring Show: We need a show chairperson for our spring show. We have booked with Our Lady of Fatima for 3 ½ days for the second weekend of March 2014.
6. Supply Sales: We have grey cloth, green velvet, black cloth, small wooden box and large wooden box for sale.

New Business

- Plant Doctor - we now need someone new – any volunteers?

Program: We had Richard Fraser from Fraser's Thimble Farms talking on hardy orchids.

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 26th, 2013 at Garth Homer Centre.

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:58 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. 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 L, M & N for 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.

Advertising, in the newsletter, is free of charge to members in good standing: \$2.00 per business card size ad per month to a member owned business (\$20.00 per fiscal year), \$5.00 per month to non-member businesses (\$50.00 per fiscal year). Businesses may also advertise on the Victoria Orchid Society web site *Classifieds* page for the same costs.

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



Masdevallia glandulosa



Officers:		Directors:	
President	John Taylor		
Past President	Ingrid Ostrander	Joyce Wilson	
Vice-president	Diana Rowles	Catherine Frutiger	
Secretary	Kathryn Collins	Coreen Kempling	
Treasurer	Jane Mason	Nancy Cole	
Web Master	Blair Humphrey	Justin Denning	
Newsletter Editor	Diana Rowles	Kristi Leon	
Spring Show Committee: Kathryn Collins, Poul Hansen, Pat van Adrichem Art Macgregor, Diana Rowles, Noreen Taylor, Ingrid Ostrander, Nancy Cole			
In emergencies, call John Taylor at (250) 250 479-0146.			



Den. Himezakura Fujikko

Opportunities

An interesting and very useful *app* has been developed by “*MQ GreenThumb*”. It allows those with smart phones to measure their light exposure in foot candles in different places in their growing areas, using their phones.

Dustin Miller of the Foothills Orchid Society has developed this product and it sells for practically nothing. He says “*MQ* is Mobility Quotient’s designated signature for the apps we create (a stamp of quality if you will). *GreenThumb* has been tested against other professional-grade light meters and we found it to be +/- 2% accurate (which isn’t too bad for the price difference); it’s also extremely easy to use and shows you the foot candles in your growing area.” Dustin’s descriptive email with pictures has been sent around to the membership by email, courtesy of Jerry Bolce.

Check it out it out: <http://mobilityquotient.com/products/greenthumb>



Slc. Gold Nugget

10% Discount from local stores.

Show membership card before purchase.

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Victoria Orchid Society

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

www.victoriaorchidsociety.ca

Membership Form

For 2013 / 2014

Please print clearly

Miltonia Venus

Victoria Orchid Society's Flower Emblem

New Renewal Update

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation or special interest* _____

* optional

Enclosing a cheque for : Family membership @ \$35.00 for a one (1) year membership in VicOS
Single membership @ \$25.00 for a one (1) year membership in VicOS

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

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

Please make cheques payable to Victoria Orchid Society in Canadian funds.

Send it 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 apply)

Greenhouse Sq. Footage ; House ; Windowsill ; Lights

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

The yearly **Membership Directory** will be available in January.

Please indicate your preferences so we act accordingly.

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 VicOS newsletter is sent out by email once a month in PDF format and blind copied to recipients.

Revised June, 2013