



Victoria Orchid Society



Photo by Catharine Schlenker

This beautiful *Dendrochilum formosanum*, grown by Don Mills, was voted the best plant on the display table at the January meeting.

2019 Meetings:

Spring

February 25th

March 25th

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th

Members with last names starting with **G, H, J & K** are asked to bring goodies for the February meeting.

Inside this issue:

- 2 President's Message***
- 2 Upcoming Events***
- 3 The VicOS Orchid Show & Sale***
- 5 Past Events***
- 6 The Book Corner***
- 7 Minutes of the January meeting***
- 9 Society Information***
- 10 Reminders & Opportunities Classifieds***

Welcome to new member, Yvonne Hendry



From the Editor

We are now moving full tilt toward our March Show & Sale. Get your plants ready, sign up for volunteer shifts at the show and watch for the new Victoria Orchid Society website, appearing shortly on victoriaorchidsociety.ca.

Dracula bella

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

The season of Orchid Shows is upon us. Hopefully, some of you had the opportunity to visit the CVIOS show in Nanaimo. There were some excellent displays and many lovely orchids. Unfortunately, that weekend the temperatures managed to turn quite frigid – there is something to be said for holding these shows a little later in the year!



John Taylor

Since joining the AOS judging program as a student judge, I am asked to attend the shows to take part in official judging. If anyone would like to know more about the judging process: what features are considered when a plant is judged, or learn more about the great variety of orchids that exists, I can strongly recommend the AOS program. The only downside for the student is that it can take up to seven years to become an accredited judge.

There is always some species or variety at these shows that is unexpected. The species that intrigued me in Nanaimo was a very well-grown *Paph. tranlienianum*. This is an unusually-shaped slipper orchid with a funnel-shaped cap (dorsal sepal) in white and a pouch and wildly twisted petals in various shades of brown. It is a relatively rare species, known from only two locations in northern Vietnam and one location in southern China. The habitat is characterised by limestone cliffs in a broad-leaf evergreen forest. It is estimated that the total wild population of *Paph. tranlienianum* now consists of fewer than 50 mature individuals, and the population continues to decline due to human intrusion, either from habitat loss, or collection for sale to traders. An unfortunate fact of life: if an orchid is of interest to collectors it gets collected! Interestingly enough, there was one small seedling of this *Paphiopedilum* on sale at the Paramount display. They had received a flask some years back, but so far had not managed to get any to flower. It now sits in my greenhouse, so we shall see.

Needless to say, the next show coming up is our own. If you haven't signed up to volunteer for one of the many jobs available, please do. Hopefully by the beginning of March the weather will be a little more cooperative.

Upcoming Events:

The monthly meeting of the Victoria Orchid Society is held on the fourth Monday 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 at about 10:00 p.m. Often there is a pre-meeting workshop or Question & Answer session from 6:45-7:30 p.m. The pre-meeting workshop for February will be given by Joe Chow. He will do a follow up on BCOC Flower Classes and how to classify your orchids for shows.

Spring 2019

February 25th Mitch Nickel – How to Identify and Exploit Microclimates in your Growing Areas

March 3 - 4 –Orchid Show & Sale

March 25th – John Taylor – Madagascar: the Country and the Orchids

April 22nd Orchid Auction

May 27th – Alexey Tretyakov – Orchid Nutrition, part 2

June 24- Alan Koch – Gold Country Orchids, USA – Species, Habitat and Hybrid Culture

February 25th – Mitch Nickel – How to Identify and Exploit Micro-climates in your growing areas.

When purchasing plants, we all have to decide whether we have warm, intermediate, or cool growing areas. Many of us try to have several of these options. Come to Mitch's session and get some tips on how to make this work.

March 1st-3rd -Victoria Orchid Society Show & Sale, *Worldwide Beauties*

The annual Victoria Orchid Society Orchid Show & Sale is coming up fast. Posters have been printed and were available at the January meeting. Most of them have been picked up to distribute, so if you need any, let me know before the February meeting and I will see what I can dig up.

We have already received quite a few donations for the Silent Auction, but if you still have ideas for places that may donate, it is not too late.

Volunteers for the Show:

The VicOS Show & Sale is run by volunteers, both in preparation and in execution.

On the three days of the show, there are many tasks that need to be done, from setting up the display and registering the plants to taking a shift or two (2 hours) at one of the stations that manage the actual running of the show. A lot of it involves sitting down.

The show timetable for volunteers was passed around at the January meeting and quite a few people signed up. However, we still need some more. An email was sent out on February 8th to ask for more assistance. However, I am sure that we still need a few more. Please check your calendar for March 1st-3rd and sign up where you think you will be able to help. It is not written in stone and times can be re-negotiated closer to the show.



The tasks that need to be managed at the show include: **Admissions** (selling tickets for entry), **Security** (checking plants are not stolen or damaged), **Information** (general information about the show and sending people with culture questions to the right people), **Cashier** and **Plant Checker/bagger** (the Checker collects the price stick for the plant for the Cashier and then bags the plant for the buyer). The **Plant Hotel**

task is taking care of purchased plants so that people can go back to the display area or do more shopping before leaving the building with their plants. And then, of course, there is always set-up and clean-up.



You will find that participating in the show activities is a great experience. All tasks are done in pairs and you get to meet new people and learn lots of things about orchids. You are also on the spot to get an early look at the orchid sales.

There are also some orphan flower classes needing *Sponsors*. Please let Kathryn Collins know if you are prepared to be a sponsor. It costs \$25 – \$5 to purchase the *Best of Class* rosette and \$20 for the grower of the best plant in each class. As was explained in the January session, this is different from AOS judging and awards. In Ribbon Judging in which these *Best of Class* prizes are awarded, Society members will work in teams to look at the flowers in a class and decide which plant is the most attractive example of the group.

We still need more people to do the Ribbon Judging on Friday afternoon. It is a nice experience to work in a team this way and it helps people to understand what they should look for when buying an orchid. These ribbon awards are made at the *Friday evening party* where food is served and we get to celebrate the work done by the grower and by the ribbon judges. There is no charge for members and their guests to attend this party.

March 23rd & 24th – Vancouver Orchid Society Show & Sale

VanDusen Botanical Garden Floral Hall,
5251 Oak Street, Vancouver. B.C.

**This show boasts many international sellers
and always have lovely displays**

Show Schedule:

Saturday, March 23rd

1:00 p.m. AOS Judging
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Show and sale open to the public

Sunday, March 24th

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Show and Sale open to the public
5:00 teardown.

Admission:

Adults \$7 – two day pass \$10
Seniors & Students \$6, \$9 – two day pass
(\$Off coupon available from the web.)
www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca

Vendors:

Ching Hua – Taiwan
Ecuagenera – Ecuador
Forestview – Aggazi, BC

Tropical Gardens – Ladner, BC
Paramount Orchids – Parksville, BC
Phoenix Perennials – Richmond, BC

Ten Shin – Taiwan
Joseph Wu – Taiwan

A poster for the Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale 2019. The background is dark with a large, vibrant purple orchid plant on the right side. The text is white and blue. At the top, it says "Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale 2019". Below that, it lists the dates and times: "Saturday March 23 9am-5pm" and "Sunday March 24 10am-5pm". Then, it lists the admission prices: "Admission: \$7 Adults / \$10 2 Day pass / \$6 Students & Seniors / \$9 2 Day pass (Students & Seniors) (\$15 Preview Party Friday Mar. 22th 7:00pm see website for details)". The location is listed as "Floral Hall, VanDusen Garden, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver (37th & Oak)". At the bottom, it says "\$1 off coupon available at www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca". There are logos for the Vancouver Orchid Society and GardenWorks at the bottom.

Past Events

January 28th – General meeting: Ribbon Judging - Poul Hansen & Jill Livesey demonstrated what is involved in judging orchids for ribbons. They explained that this is quite different from the AOS award judging and is a pleasurable and educational activity at our orchid show each year. For those who could not make the meeting, see below.

Teams of VicOS members, look at and discuss individual plants of a sub-class. They choose the three blooms that they think are the nicest and award 1st, 2nd & 3rd ribbons. When they have repeated this with each subclass, they take a second look at all of the blooms in the groups to which they awarded a blue (1st) ribbon. They choose the bloom that they consider best of all these and it is awarded a **Best of Class** rosette. The grower receives the rosette and an envelope with \$20 in it. These are the awards that are sponsored by members (\$25).

For example: In the *Pleurothallis* group (sub-tribe) class 3, *Masdevallia*, *Dracula*, *Restrepia* are judged first as separate groups, but the second judging of the blue ribbons from these groups decides the **Best of Class** Award.

Jill is shown here receiving a **Best of Class** Award at the reception in 2016.



February 1st-3rd – CVIOS Show & Sale

After many confusing issues and juggled responsibilities, our plants got to the CVIOS show, won some impressive awards and got safely home! Sasha kindly offered to take the plants to Nanaimo and do the set-up, greatly aided by Cat Frutiger and Leda Bower.

The following awards were won by VicOS members:



Best Display Award



*Best of All Others
Macrolinium manabinum
Leda Bower*



*Best Cymbidium
Cymbidium Ann Miller 'Midnight'
Svend Munkholm*

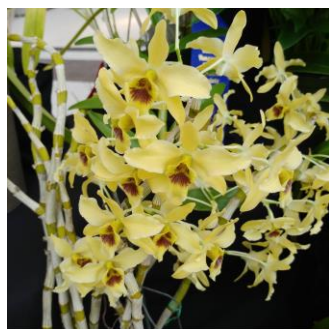


*Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn received both
Best of Class for Paphiopedilum
and
Reserve Champion for the Show
Joe Chow*

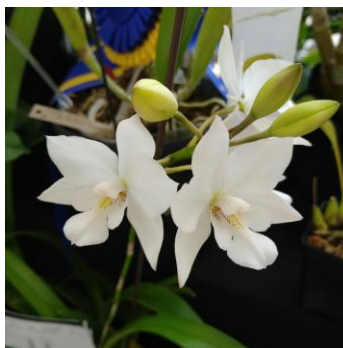
Photos from CVIOS show by Bryan Emery



The Dora Glover Award for Best Cattleya Alliance
Cattlianthe Doris and Byron 'Christmas Rose'
Catherine Frutiger



Best Dendrobium
Dendrobium heterocarpum
Don Mills



Best Cattleya
Dialaelia Snowflake 'Model'
Leda Bower



Best Vanda
Holcostylis Pink Yawi
Catherine Frutiger

The sudden cold weather caused Diana & Blair to chicken out of the take down and return trip, so Bryan Emery very kindly braved the ice and snow to bring the plants home where they were stored with Kathryn for pickup. Kathryn braved her furnace heat being turned down for most of Monday to keep the plants fresh. A great effort by all.

Judging news:



Abu Saleh

Please note that all awards are considered provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchids Plus.

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging on January 12, no AOS awards were granted.

The AOS Western Canada Judging Center meets every second Saturday of the month at 11:30am, except where noted. The next judging will be on March 2, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

(after the VicOS Show Judging) at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria BC.

(Chair: Abu Saleh, 604-328-5363, asalleh@telus.net)

The Book Corner: Library Book Reviews by Don Mills

(Don Mills has kindly agreed to review library books to inform and encourage our members to use our library. He is a very knowledgeable grower and has written various articles for this newsletter about orchid shows that he has visited. This is his first book review, but it will become a regular feature.)

Many people today are glued to their android phones, ipads, PC's, and laptops for information which they can access in milliseconds. But there is still something comforting and tactile about picking up an illustrated book, sitting down and browsing through it for visual enjoyment and information. Flipping back and forth through the pages is a lot more enjoyable than trying to master the same task on a computer.

Enough said! Let's review our first book.

Review #1 *ORCHID Growing Illustrated* Reprinted 1986. 159 pages.

Authors: Wilma & Brian Rittershausen

This book is packed with great growing information for both novice and not so novice orchid fanciers. A mixture of over 200 colour and black/white (big and bold) photos takes the grower through such subjects as potting, repotting, dividing, and propagating orchid plants. The book also covers watering, fertilizing, pest identification and control, as well as greenhouse and home cultivation techniques. I would highly recommend this book to boost ones growing skills.

As an after note, the authors published an updated book called *The Practical Encyclopedia of ORCHIDS*, 2011, 256 pages. It expands the information from their first book with all colour photos and a glossary of popular and “specialist” orchids. More step by step photos take the reader through potting and mounting orchids, as well as dividing and propagating them. Better than their first book!

Enjoy!

Don Mills

Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting, January 28, 2019



Den. Hibiki 'Paulwela' AM/AOS

The General Meeting of January 28, 2019 was held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. As there was only one person at the pre-meeting workshop on flower registration for the show, Ingrid cancelled it. There was one guest at the meeting, his name was Draven, a recent arrival from Ontario. Poul Hansen and Ingrid Ostrander presented the show table.

Treasurer's report: Jill Livesey presented her financial report for the months of November and December, 2018 and moved for acceptance, seconded by Diana Rowles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION Jill made a motion that \$6,000 be placed in a Term Deposit, it was seconded by Catharine Schlenker.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Secretary's report: Ingrid Ostrander moved and Catharine Schlenker seconded that the minutes from the October General meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Barb reported that she had filed all the changes of Directors, both the resignations and the re-elections, made last fall in October and November, with the B.C. Societies Act. The total cost for the filings was \$75.

Other Reports:

AOS: John reminded everyone the next judging will be at the CVIOS Show on February 1, 2019. He stated that Sasha Kubicek and Don Mills will transport members' plants.

COC: Ingrid reported that the new President is Dr. Leslie Ee.

Membership: Kathryn reported there are currently 73 members.

Plant sales: Coreen has plants for sale, as well as some free Spanish moss available.

Program: John reviewed the upcoming programs:

February 25 – Mitch Nickel – “How to identify and exploit microclimates in your growing area”

March—the Spring Show, April—the Annual Auction.

Spring Show: Barb gave an update on the show:

Vendors attending so far are: Paramount, Forestview, Brad Taylor, Melanie Gallacher (VOS), Sue Christison, CVIOS, as well as Joe Chow and Svend Munkholm.

The Monterey Chinese Brush Painters and Goward House Brush Painters will be submitting art work also this year.

Barb reported that the Friday evening ‘Gala’ will be a ‘wine & cheese’ type event with the food coming from Thrifty Foods. There will be a focus on ‘foods from around the world’ to tie in with this year’s show theme. There will be no cost to attend this evening event. Lioba has offered to assist Barb, as well as organize the food for the volunteers, both on Saturday and Sunday. Barb has made full payment for the rental of the hall.

Supply Sales: Catherine will be placing an order for more pots and baskets but there is no fine bark available for ordering anymore. Orchidata bark order should be available by mid-February.

Social Media: Diana Rowles spoke about researching changes to our website. She has spoken to a firm named *Urban Web Design*. They have proposed to build a new site for \$1050 plus taxes, with a hosting fee of \$140 annually. These are quoted in Canadian dollars.

Discussion followed with Chris defending his position since taking on the website at the end of October. Both Diana and Kathryn Collins cited poor communication issues regarding the upcoming Spring Show. Toni Dertlieva questioned whether there would be enough time to have a new website up and running in time for the show. Astrid spoke in support of Chris and Catharine Schlenker voiced her thoughts on *Wordpress*.

MOTION: That the Victoria Orchid Society commission a professional website at a cost of up to \$1500 and incur a yearly cost of \$140 Can/year. Those in favour---14 Those against---7.

MOTION PASSED

New Business:

There was no new business.

Program:

John introduced Poul and Jill to present their talk on Ribbon Judging.

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Davies

Society Information

Meetings are held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall Avenue, Victoria, B.C. on the fourth Monday of the month. Members are encouraged to bring 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 sales table where plants brought in by members may be purchased. There is often a pre-meeting, basic workshop from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Plant sales begin at 7:15 p.m. and the meeting runs from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 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 **G, H, J & K** for the February 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 (\$15.00 per fiscal year), \$5.00 per month to non-member businesses (\$40.00 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 195 Maddock Avenue West, Victoria, B.C. V9A 1G5.

Officers:

President John Taylor
Past President Ingrid Ostrander
Vice-president Diana Rowles
Secretary Barbara Davies
Treasurer Jill Livesey

Newsletter Editor: Diana Rowles

Web Master: Chris Bauer

Proofreader: Joe Chow

Librarian: Elsie Gerdes/Bill Cleugh

Membership: Kathryn Collins

Spring Show Chairs: Barb Davies

Programs Chair: Rodney Crutcher

In emergencies, call John Taylor at (250) 250 479-0146.

Directors:

Lioba Samer
Kathryn Collins
Chris Bauer
Poul Hansen
Catharine Schlenker
Joyce Wilson
Blair Humphrey



Phragmipedium Joan Montmorency



Epidendrum Joseph Lii 'Kultana'

Reminders & Opportunities

Special Request: Our speaker for the February 25th meeting, Mitch Nickle, speaking on *How to Identify and Exploit Microclimates in your Growing Areas* has a special request to make of our membership:

"I grow mainly *Oncidium* alliance and *Dendrobium*. I am particularly obsessed with the genus *Cyrtochilum*, but these plants are almost impossible to find! If any VicOS members have plants of *Cyrtochilum* species or hybrids they are willing to part with, I would be very happy to pay for them at the meeting." (taylor.blayz@gmail.com)

Ordering Plants for Pick-up at Shows: We have recently sent around price lists for a number of international orchid growers who are coming to various shows in Canada, specifically to the Vancouver Orchid Society (VOS) Show which is happening on March 23rd & 24th.

New members may not be familiar with the acronyms used for the local orchid societies. So, for their information: **VicOS is Victoria Orchid Society, VOS is Vancouver Orchid Society, CVIOS is Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society, FVOS is Fraser Valley Orchid Society.**

The recent email referred to growers who would be selling at the Vancouver Orchid Society Show at the end of March. Some members may have expected VOS to be Victoria Orchid Society and ordered plants thinking that they would pick them up at our show on March 1-3. DO NOT PANIC, there is always someone willing to pick up the plants for you if you cannot attend the Vancouver Show. Anyone in this situation should contact me and I will help you to arrange it.

Classifieds

KINGFISHER ORCHIDS



Quality

Orchid

Plants

Kingfisherorchids@gmail.com

Specializing in Phalaenopsis
Custom flasking service now available

Patrick van Adrichem
250.656.3094



represented by
Russ Davis

572 Peto Place
Victoria, BC V8Z 2K6

wk: 250-727-0067
cell: 250-744-6714

email: davisconstruction@shaw.ca

Sales and Service

- Commercial and Hobby Greenhouses
- Pre-fabricated Enclosures
- Cold Frames
- Heating and Ventilating
- Soil Cables
- Automatic Vent openings

It's time to repot!
Supplies for the home grower

**Fir Bark, New Zealand Sphagnum,
Clear Pots, Custom mixes and more.**



www.ravenvision.ca



Online only:
10% discount for VOS members
Coupon code: VOSNL