

Victoria Orchid Society



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Dracula bella

From the Editor

The auction was a big success. A lot of really good deals for very nice plants, occurred. Thanks to everyone who donated plants, to all the volunteers who caused the evening to run smoothly and to those who turned out to bid. Only two more meetings (and two more newsletters) until the summer break. Don't forget to send your name in to Joe Chow if you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive for the 2019-2020 year. The election will be at the June meeting.

Lioba Samer and Astrid Firley Eaton both participated in the TC Nordic Walk on April 28th. Lioba, true to form, was first in her division (Senior) finishing four minutes faster than her time last year.



Logo photo D. Rowles



Judith Higham photo

Because of the auction, there was no display table at the April Meeting. Instead, here is a photo of Masdevallia Minaret Burrard Inlet CCM/AOS, a beautiful plant grown by Joe Chow. It was featured in the April issue of Orchids for winning the Carl Luer award as "the most outstanding member of the Pleurothallidinae". See details on page 3.

2019 Meetings:

Spring

May 27th

June 24th

Members with last names starting with **S, T, & V** are asked to bring goodies for the May meeting.



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).

President's Message

Finally, the settled weather has arrived and we can get out of the house and into the garden. All of the retail outlets, Thriftys to Canadian Tire, have moved into the business of selling containers of garden plants. It is also time to put some of our more cold-tolerant orchids - Masdevallias, Disas - outside for the year.



John Taylor

Our speaker this month is Sasha Kubicek, who will be talking about the conservation of orchids. This seems a highly germane topic these days. The UN has just released a report decrying the sad state of the natural world, with so many plants and animals on the endangered list. Orchids, of course, are often among the first to go because they are commercially valuable, and because they require specialized growing conditions that are often destroyed in the inexorable human land grab. We tend to think of the destruction of tropical forests to provide pasture for cattle, or plantations for oil palms, but we in the temperate zone, with somewhat less specialized conditions, are also seeing the rapid depletion of areas suitable for plant growth and necessary for sustaining wildlife.

Spring 2019

May 27th – Sasha Kubicek, *Orchid Conservation.*

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



Sometimes it is possible to find the most interesting plants in the remaining, but rapidly diminishing areas. In June last year I came across a patch of the orchid, *Piperia elegans*, in a small hunk of undisturbed land next to the parking lot of a bank in the centre of town. *Piperia elegans* is a West Coast species found from northern California into southern BC. usually in dry grassy meadows in lowland areas. It is of infrequent occurrence in SW BC. Although this species is not considered endangered, it is doubtful it will last for long in the parking lot of a bank.

Our final meeting in June will include the election of a new executive that will take over running the Society for the 2019-20 season. Now is the time to think about putting your name forward for any of the available positions. Getting involved with the executive of the society is highly enjoyable, both as a social experience and as an education on the minutiae of the orchid hobby.

John Taylor



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.

May 27th – Sasha Kubicek, *Orchid Conservation*

Sasha will consider orchid conservation both locally and internationally. He is very knowledgeable about the native orchids on Vancouver Island as those of you who have attended his nature walks will confirm. There will be no pre-meeting workshop at this meeting.

Past Events

Congratulations to Joe Chow whose Carl Luer Award was featured in the April Orchids Magazine, with the following nice little write up. His winning *Masdevallia*, Burrard Inlet, was spectacular. See photo on page 1 of this newsletter.

Carl Luer Award - Given to the grower of the most outstanding member of the Pleurothallidinae.

Masdevallia Minaret 'Burrard Inlet' CCM/AOS (calocodon x ignea) (85) #20174354; Exhibitor, Joe Chow; Photographer, Judith Higham; Western Canada Judging Center, monthly judging, Richmond British Columbia 8/12/17.

This beautiful, uniformly flowered plant had 135 pink, magenta-striped "cheery" flowers. Carlyle Luer is a botanist and physician who, upon his retirement as a physician, took up the study and illustration of orchids in 1975. He is currently in his 90s. His taxonomic work has inspired the explosive interest in pleurothallids in recent years. Joe Chow has been growing orchids for 25 years as a hobby. He lives near the southern tip of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Summers are cool and a perfect place to grow his masdevallias outside from April to October.

Excerpt from *Orchids*, Vol 88 No.4 April 2019

April 22nd Orchid Auction:

President John Taylor welcomed the assembled group sitting expectantly with their bidding panels, and, then, handed the floor over to the Auctioneer. Joe Chow projected photos of the plants on the screen as they went up for auction.

More than 100 plants were on the block at the annual auction. Patrick van Adrichem, our auctioneer, carried the evening smoothly along, encouraging the bidders with humour and useful knowledge about the plants on sale. Many people went home with great bargains.



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 show judging at the Vancouver Orchid Society Show on March 23, 2019, the following AOS awards were granted:

Pleione formosana 'Meetings at CVIOS' CCM/AOS 87pts

Exhibitor: Alexey Tretyakov



Phalaenopsis Cindy Li 'Paige' AM/AOS 80pts

(*Phalaenopsis gigantea* 'Paul van' x *Phalaenopsis* Marie's Delight 'Patrick')

Exhibitor: Pat van Adrichem | Kingfisher Orchids



Paphiopedilum Franz Glanz 'Tak Fai' HCC/AOS 77pts

(*Paphiopedilum armeniacum* x *Paphiopedilum emersonii*)

Exhibitor: Calvin Wong | Tropical Gardens Orchids

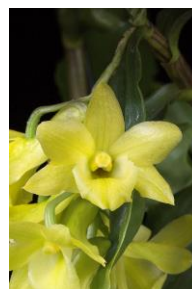


Photographs by Judith Higham

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's show judging at the Orchid Society of Alberta Show on April 5, 2019, the following AOS awards were granted:

Dendrobium cerinum 'Mellow Yellow' CCM/AOS 87pts

Exhibitor: Darrell Albert



Phragmipedium Grande 'Wesley's Avatar' AM/AOS 87pts
(*Phragmipedium longifolium* x *Phragmipedium humboldtii*)
Exhibitor: Monica De Wit



Phragmipedium Ruby Slippers 'Dorothy' AM/AOS 82pts
(*Phragmipedium caudatum* x *Phragmipedium besseae*)
Exhibitor: Bob Lucas



Phalaenopsis Brother Sara Gold 'Mellow Yellow' AM/AOS 82pts
(*Phalaenopsis* Sara Lee x *Phalaenopsis* Taipai Gold)
Exhibitor: Paul Paludet



AOS Show Trophy 'Orchidstra' ST/AOS 86pts
Exhibitor: Darrell Albert



AOS Silver Certificate 'Orchidstra' SC/AOS 86pts
Exhibitor: Darrell Albert

*Plant award photos by Judith Higham.
Exhibit photos by Ed Higham*

Next two monthly meetings:

- May 11, 2019 : 11:30am at Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond, BC V7B 1L4
- June 8, 2019 : 1:00pm (after WCJC semi annual business meeting) at Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond, BC V7B 1L4

The Book Corner: Library Book Reviews by Don Mills

Dual books reviewed this month as they complement each other.

First book

Authors: Sybella Schelpe and Joyce Stewart

Dendrobiums an introduction to the species in cultivation,

Published 1990 by Orchid Sundries Ltd. 115 pages, numerous photos.

Second book

Authors: Margaret L. & Charles O. Baker

Orchid Species Culture Dendrobium, Published 1996 by Timber Press, Inc. 852 pages, no photos or illustrations.

The first book is quick and concise for identifying your *Dendrobium* plant into the correct subspecies and section for cultural info. The most common *Dendrobiums* are photographed for this book. The first two chapters give you minimal information on habitat and culture, which leads nicely into the second book review.

Here is a cornucopia of information on hundreds of species of *Dendrobium*. Years of research and recordings went into compiling the min/max temperatures and inches of rainfall, etc. If you want to grow your *Dendrobium* to its maximum potential this is the ultimate reference book. The first 20 pages or so explain the general layout of the book, only criticism is no photos or illustrations. Good growing and don't be afraid to try new species.



Dendrobium helix

Don Mills

Orchids Stolen from German Reserve

Thousands of Orchids Stolen from German Nature Reserve
Published May 12, 2019
www.birdguides.com



Around 3,000 plants of several orchid species have been dug up and stolen in Germany's famous Taubergiessen Nature Reserve.

Scores of flowering Early Spider, Late Spider and Bumblebee Orchids were among those vandalised by the thieves over an area spanning several hectares of the reserve, which is situated along the River Rhine close to the French-German border, North of Freiburg.

Dietmar Keil, a local biologist who was heavily involved in ensuring Taubergiessen was designated as a nature reserve 40 years ago, commented: "It will take at least 50 years for affected varieties to recover to some extent – if they can be saved at all.

Local police, who are now patrolling the area to ensure the remaining flowers are not also stolen, are appealing for witnesses to what they described as an "unprecedented environmental crime", which took place at some point between 1 and 5 May.

Unfortunately, this incident is not the first to have taken place on site. In 2018, some of the reserve's few Lizard Orchids were dug up while, in 2017, a number of Pyramidal Orchids disappeared from the meadow. At the time, executives went along with the theory that the damage must have been caused by Wild Boar.

However, that theory has now been thrown out the window, says Keil, who has offered a €5,000 reward for identifying the perpetrators. The orchids are likely to have been stolen for sale on the internet, where considerable demand remains – some buyers are rumoured to pay in excess of €100 for a single plant – which makes them a lucrative target for criminals. Using this value, the police estimate around €250,000 worth of damage at Taubergiessen.

This latest incident highlights the precarious situation of orchids across Europe which, because of their beauty and desirability, are regularly targeted by criminals. The localities of some particularly rare species are routinely kept secret, while others are closely guarded by volunteers – sometimes round the clock – to safeguard them.

From LOS newsletter, May 2019

April 22nd general meeting.

There are no minutes from the April 22nd meeting because of the Auction. President John Taylor welcomed assembled members and guests and Patrick van Adrichem started the bidding at 7:30 p.m.

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 **S, T, & V** 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.

Newsletters will now be posted and archived on a **members' only** page on the new website and members will be issued a password to access it. This will give a little more privacy to people and events that are shown in the newsletter. Members who do not wish even this amount of exposure, please let the newspaper editor know and photos of them will be blurred or omitted.

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 Masters: Diana Rowles/Catharine Schlenker

Proofreader: Joe Chow

Librarian: Elsie Gerdes/Bill Cleugh

Membership: Kathryn Collins

Spring Show Chair: Barb Davies

Programs Chair: Rodney Crutcher

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

Directors:

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



Epidendrum Joseph Lii 'Kultana'



Phragmipedium Joan Montmorency

Reminders & Opportunities

Thursday, May 16, 2019 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT



Member Exclusive Webinar.

Asian Cymbidiums –

Join Ken Jacobsen, as he presents an overview of Asian Cymbidium species and hybrids, often valued as much for their foliage as their flowers.

**The Victoria Floral Artists Guild presents
Explore, Experiment, Express with award
winning Brenna Quan**

June Meeting – Alan Koch Pre-orders

The list of orchids that Alan Koch has available was sent around on May 13th. The pre-orders for plants to be brought to the June meeting must be in by May 31st.

Please follow the instruction in placing your order with Sasha to ensure that your plants arrive with Alan for pick up at the meeting.

June 4th Victoria Horticultural Society June Meeting.

For our June meeting, 7:30 p.m. June 4, 2019 at the Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin St., we are bringing in Pam Erikson to do both the workshop and main talk. Pam is an award-winning daylily hybridizer, photographer, instructor and lecturer from Langley, BC. Because of the extra cost of bringing Pam to our meeting we will be checking membership cards and charging \$10 for non-members.

VICTORIA FLORAL ARTISTS GUILD PRESENTS



EXPLORE. EXPERIMENT. EXPRESS:

The Art of Exploring Materials and Found Objects with Brenna Quan, AIFD

Non-members \$20.00
June 11 2019, 7:00PM Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin Avenue



Brenna is a floral designer based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her foundation as an artist began with the study of lines and movement as a professional dancer and choreographer. Brenna's natural prowess for emotional expression led her transition into the area of floral design.

WINNER OF:

- Gateway to America's Cup 2016 2nd
- Pacific NW Floral Design 2016, 2019 1st
- Maple Leaf Cub, Edmonton, 2019 1st



FEATURED DESIGNER AT:

- AIFD National Symposium 2016
- Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase 2014 - 2016

For information contact : www.victoriafloralartists.ca or vicepresidentvfg@gmail.com

Come join us!

In 1991, Pam became the first American Hemerocallis Society judge in Canada, and, in affiliation with the AHS, she started the first Canadian daylily club and remains its President to this day. The family's one-acre display garden was the first daylily garden sanctioned by both the AHS and the Canadian Daylily Society, and is visited by locals and internationals alike. Pam has co-authored several books, is a regular columnist, and travels frequently to acquire new and rare daylily varieties. To date, she has introduced 82 new daylily cultivars to the world market.

6:30pm

Workshop

HEMEROCALLIS: TWO GREEK WORDS MEANING 'BEAUTY' AND 'DAY' = DAYLILY.

Learn about this herbaceous perennial, its culture, care, division, pests and more.

8pm

Main Presentation

THE EVOLUTION OF A DAYLILY AND HOSTA GARDEN

Follow the progress of this garden over its 30-year development from a bare acre to a National Display Garden with over 3,000 varieties of daylilies and 600 varieties of host. Be prepared for a visual feast!

Gail Miller

Classifieds



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Here's How Horticulturalists Made the Michelle Obama Orchid

By Anna White

This year's orchid show takes over the cavernous naturally-lit Kogod Courtyard with thousands on view.



Michelle Obama is the 14th consecutive First Lady to have a Cattleya orchid named in her honor (above). Last year, the Melania Trump orchid was earning acclaim in the plant world. (Courtesy of Arthur E. Chadwick)

In 2009, orchid grower and connoisseur Arthur E. Chadwick, owner of Chadwick & Son Orchids, arrived at the Harrison Opera House in Norfolk, Virginia. He was there to meet the then-First Lady Michelle Obama at a private reception. In his arms, he was juggling an arrangement of five gorgeous orchids with blooms in hues ranging from lavender to fuchsia.

The plants, cultivated by Chadwick himself, were a specialized breeding of the hybrid *Cattleya* Mini Purple and the species *Cattleya trianaei* to create a new variety that would be known as *Cattleya* Michelle Obama. The orchids were to be presented as a gift to Obama, the 14th consecutive First Lady to have a Cattleya orchid named in her honor.

But to Chadwick's dismay, Secret Service agents would not permit the flowers into the reception without first scanning them for explosives, and worse—no scanning equipment was available. After much negotiation, a compromise was reached. Chadwick was permitted to select two of the blooms for the formal presentation to the First Lady. Though the two blooms were comically spare in contrast with the original bouquet, Obama was delighted. "She thought it was great, she really did," says Chadwick, who also presented the First Lady with a certificate from Royal Horticultural Society, declaring the flower's official international registration.

The *Cattleya* Michelle Obama is part of a tradition of naming orchid varieties after First Ladies that dates back to 1929 beginning with the Mrs. Herbert Hoover orchid—Chadwick has been responsible for the creation of the last five, Barbara Bush to Melania Trump.

The orchid Michelle Obama takes a full seven years to grow from seed to a mature plant, but the flower lasts several weeks. "The color is really spectacular—just a beautiful, glistening magenta, and the fact that the flower just lasts forever, that's unheard of for *Cattleyas*," says Chadwick, adding that the flower is accessible as well as elegant, much like the first lady herself. "It's a compact grower, it's something that anyone could put on their windowsill."

Smithsonian visitors can now view Chadwick's striking floral homage to the 44th first lady at the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard in Washington D.C.'s Old Patent Office Building, home of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.

The namesake flower is just steps away from the powerfully eloquent portrait that artist Amy Sherald created of Obama, and which was unveiled last February alongside Kehinde Wiley's portrait of President Barack Obama. The Obama portraits have since drawn a record number of visitors to the museum.

The orchid Michelle Obama is on display as part of the Smithsonian Gardens and U.S. Botanic Garden's 24th annual orchid exhibition, "Orchids: Amazing Adaptations." Under the high glass ceiling of the cavernous Kogod Courtyard, eight beds of artfully-arranged orchids are awash in natural light amidst neutral foliage; and the display is breathtaking. Over the course of the show, thousands of orchids of several hundred varieties will be featured. To the discerning eye, the individual plants are a botanical wonder of not just beauty, but functionality, with outer petals, known as sepals, protecting inner petals, and the sometimes large and complex middle petals ingeniously optimized for the attraction of pollinators.

Orchids are a paradoxically delicate yet durable plant. They are highly adaptable and grow on every continent except Antarctica, but are often finicky and deeply affected by environmental change, the proverbial canaries in the coal mine in regards to climate change. To demonstrate the orchid family's incredible biodiversity, the exhibition features eight themes: the anatomy of an orchid; orchids that grow on other plants; terrestrial orchids that grow on the ground and those that grow on rocks; protection of orchid habitats; an overview of the living collections; pollinator relationships; attraction and deception; and examining what is a habitat.

“This year’s show focuses on what makes orchids so amazing,” says Justin Kondrat, lead horticulturalist at the Smithsonian Gardens orchid collection. “It looks at why orchids have been cultivated for centuries, and why people are so interested and just blown away by this beautiful flower.”

This is the first year the exhibition takes place at the Kogod Courtyard—last year’s show was held at the U.S. Botanic Garden, and the year before at Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum. Horticulturists at Smithsonian Gardens and the U.S. Botanic Garden partnered with curators at the American Art Museum to create a unique display that complements both the floral display and the surrounding space. Smithsonian Gardens horticulturist Melanie Pyle says she is especially excited about the arrangement this year, playing with new ways of displaying the Gardens’ collections. “We try and show the orchids in the way that they grow, meaning terrestrial versus epiphytic,” says Pyle, in the latter case referring to the orchids that grow anchored to other plants, especially trees. She is particularly eager to point out new vine stands incorporated into this year’s display, wooden structures that would feel at home beside contemporary sculpture in the host museum’s Luce Foundation Center.

Horticulturalists will be changing out the orchids every one to two weeks to ensure they are safe and well preserved. “Each orchid bloom is a special moment in time,” says Kondrat.

The show draws from the living collections of the Smithsonian Gardens and the U.S. Botanic Garden, focusing primarily on tropical orchids. From the clustered, asparagus-like *Epidendrum coriifolium* to the delicately freckled terrestrial Jasper Glow Lady Slipper orchid, the exhibition shows the orchid family’s incredible range. “Every orchid has its own story,” says Kondrat. “There’s an orchid for everyone.”

“Orchids: Amazing Adaptations,” a joint collaboration between the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the Smithsonian Gardens and the U.S. Botanic Garden, is on view through April 28, 2019 in the Kogod Courtyard of the Old Patent Office Building, 8th and F Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

Thanks to Steve Newell for finding this article for me.