



Victoria Orchid Society



Phragmipedium Peruflora's Spirit grown by Diana Rowles was chosen as the best plant on display at the January meeting.

*Welcome to new members
Paul Henn and Andrew Richmond*

From the Editor

A busy month approaches with two shows in March, our own (March 2-4) and the Vancouver Orchid Society Show (Mar 24-25). All shows take a lot of work and the more members that are involved, the less heavy is the load on individuals. We have quite a few people signed up for the volunteer shifts at our show, although a few more packers and cashiers would be much appreciated. If you have not been to the VOS show before, you might want to consider going to Vancouver on a day trip to take it in. They have a number of international sellers and the VanDusen Gardens is a lovely setting. Carpooling is a pleasant way to do this as it cuts down on the cost of the trip and provides good company.

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

2018 Meetings:

Spring
February 26th
March 26th
April 23rd
May 28th
June 25th

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

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Tolumia hybrid



John Taylor

President's Message

The big news this month, as last month, is the upcoming Victoria Orchid Society show. The preparations and performance involves many workers and much planning. If you haven't signed up for some of the volunteer positions available during show days, there are still spots left.

This year a number of innovations have been introduced. Our usual Gala Evening is now to be called Preview and Awards Evening, which more clearly suggests its function. Admittance will be free; however, there will be an opportunity to donate to the conservation of orchids in the wild—definitely something we should be concerned with as a society. This is in line with the theme of the show which is *Orchids in Nature*.

One of the recipients being considered for donations is the AOS conservation fund which makes significant contributions to local awareness of endangered species and the preservation of sensitive sites. The orchid shown on our show posters, *Paphiopedilum helenae*, for example, is critically endangered with a very few disjunct populations in Vietnam and China. The number of mature individuals in the wild is thought to be no more than 50. The population decline is due to habitat destruction and collecting for horticultural purposes. The reduction over the last decade has been in the range of 85-90%.

At the next meeting, Ingrid Ostrander will be discussing how to prepare orchids for display/judging at a show. Ingrid is a long time member and one of the first in our society to become an accredited AOS judge. She has grown many varieties of orchids both here and in Alberta and is a great resource for members of the Society. She will be assisted by Poul Hansen, also an AOS judge, also a long time member and a fund of information. We will need many of the member's best blooming specimens to make our society display, so keep in mind which of your plants might be in bloom a month from now. Don't forget—that special orchid you have been carefully nurturing is in the running for ribbons and prizes in a wide range of categories.

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.

The pre-meeting workshop for this meeting will be held by Joe Chow. Questions should be sent to Melanie in the next week. Although questions can be asked at the time, it is best to have some ready to handle. Also, the time is short so please come at 6:45 p.m. sharp to attend this workshop, especially if you are planning to bring a plant for diagnosis or help. If your plant looks really sick and may have pests or virus contamination, please enclose it in a plastic bag to avoid transmission to other plants.

These workshops are really valuable for beginners in particular, so come and join the group.

Spring 2018

**February 26 – Ingrid Ostrander –
Preparing Your Orchid
for the Show**

March 2-4 – Spring Show

March 26 – Rotating Stations

- **Joe Chow – Repotting
Cymbidiums**
- **Poul Hansen – Repotting
Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis**
- **Don Mills & Rick Rancourt -
Mounting Orchids**

April 23rd – Annual Auction

**May 28 – Alexey Tretyakov –
Orchid Nutrition**

**June 25th – Alan Koch -
Species Habitat and
Hybrid Culture'**

February 26th meeting – *Preparing Your Orchid for the Show with Ingrid Ostrander*

Ingrid will explain how to prepare plants for display and Judging at Shows. She is a master at preparing plants for display. As a Senior AOS Judge, she has the experience as well as the eye. This is an important session for anyone who has even one plant to put in the VicOS display at the Show. Taking care of these plants well ahead of time allows staking to support blooms in a pleasing spray and trimming dead leaves and cleaning remaining ones, can make all the difference in how elegant the plant looks at the show. Don't miss this session.

Spring Show Update:

Our spring show is fewer than 3 weeks away.

The Show is coming together nicely, but we still need some help. Please check the email list of places where help is still needed on the actual show days. Packers seem to be in particularly short supply. The job only involves putting plants into bags, so please consider it if you have the time.

There are still some genera who have not been claimed by Trophy Sponsors. Check with Kathryn Collins if you would like to be a sponsor.

We are accepting donations for a group basket to include special items such as chocolate, teas, chutneys, wine and other such treats for the Silent Auction. If you have something to contribute, please bring it to the February meeting. Any items that you have collected for the Silent Auction should also be brought to the February meeting.

And finally, we need your beautiful orchids to display!! Ingrid will be presenting valuable information during her talk "Preparing your Orchids for a Show" at our February meeting, but you should be checking out your collection now to see what is likely to be ready for showing. Remember that there is also a members' Sales Table, so if you are thinking of thinning out your collection to make room for new plants, you should be sorting them out as well.

Remember that you can pre-order plants to be brought to the show from Paramount Orchids.

Paramount will take pre-orders for delivery at our show (March 2-4). They must be in to Paramount by Sunday, February 25th, so browse their website. As those who made the trip to Paramount in the summer know, they have a fabulous stock of a wide variety of orchids. **Make sure that you make the deadline as they need at least five days before departing for the show to pull, process, pack and load the pre-orders.**



March 23rd -25th Vancouver Orchid Society 2018 Annual Show and Sale
Floral Hall, VanDusen Garden, 5151 Oak Street, Vancouver BC V6M 4H1

Show Schedule:

Friday, March 23th

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Plant registration – complete by 1:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. – complete by 2:30 p.m. - Display setup
2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Ribbon judging
7:30 p.m. – Preview party

Saturday, March 24th

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

Sunday, March 25th

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Show and sale open to public 5:00 p.m. - Teardown

Remember that both Ecuagenera (deadline for preorders: March 5th) and Ching Hua (pre-order deadline is March 3rd, 2018) are taking pre-orders that can be picked up at the Vancouver show and Poul Hansen has offered to collect plants for those people who are unable to go to the Vancouver Show. Emails with details of ordering information have been sent around in January, but if you need it, email me and I will send it to you.

Your members are welcome to contact either myself:
wayne.riggs66@gmail.com or
Margaret Prat:
margprat@gmail.com
if they would like more information

Past Events

January 22nd Meeting: *Patrick van Adrichem – "The Journey to Growing Better Orchids"*

Patrick took us on a very useful journey, from potting materials and techniques, through fertilizing patterns, to light and water requirements.

He brought some Phalaenopsis seedlings and demonstrated the way he uses *Promix HP* to promote healthy growth in his orchids.



Judging news:

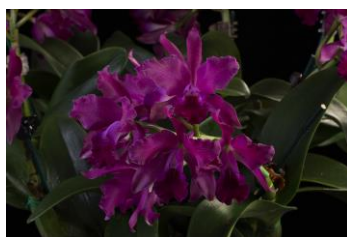


Abu Saleh

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

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging on January 13, 2018, the following AOS award was granted:

Cattlianthe Red Viking 'Tania's Own' CCM/AOS 81pts
(*Cattleya* Bonanza (Bracey) x *Cattlianthe* Chocolate Drop)
Exhibitor: Svend Munkholm



Award photos by Judith Higham

The AOS Western Canada Judging Center meets every second Saturday of the month at 11:30am, except where noted (Chair: Abu Salleh, [604-328-5363](tel:604-328-5363), asalleh@telus.net)

Next two monthly meetings:

- February 10, 2018 : 11:30am at Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond B.C.
- March 3, 2018 : 2:00pm after Victoria Orchid Society Show Judging at Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria BC

* Please note that for the WCJC monthly judging in MARCH 2018, instead of the usual date, time and place, the meeting will be held on SATURDAY March 3, 2018 at 2:00pm at Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Road, Victoria, BC after the Victoria Orchid Society show judging. (There will NOT be a separate monthly judging on March 10).

Nuggets of Science

Carnivorous Plants Going Vegetarian?

Certain carnivorous plants, known for trapping and killing tiny animals for food, may be turning vegetarian. Bladderwort, found in lakes and ponds worldwide, acquires vital nutrients from eating meaty prey, AND consuming algae and pollen grains. Researchers with the University of Vienna studied bladderworts (UTRICULARIA), one of the largest genera of carnivorous plants with over 200 species.

They investigated the contents of over 2,000 traps, and only 10% contained animals; 50% of the prey was algae. More than 33% of prey consisted of nearby tree pollen. Algae comprised even more of bladderworts' diet when plants lived in nutrient-poor habitats like peat bogs. Algae provide other nutrients, possibly phosphorus and trace elements. Algae and pollen as well as animal prey differ in nutrient value. Plants consuming both animals and algae were in the best shape; this broad diet provided a range of nutrients. Carnivorous bladderworts typically catch prey with sophisticated suction traps and valve-like trap doors that open and close in 3 milliseconds. Inside the trap, suffocated prey is digested by enzymes.

Courtesy Jenna Iacurci/Nature World News

Orchids are much older than we thought.

**BY KELSEY KENNEDY,
MAY 04, 2017**

A product of the Cretaceous.

This fungus gnat did not have a good day. First, she was duped into laying her eggs in an orchid instead of a mushroom, then she lost a leg, and finally she died, stuck in some tree sap. But between 45 and 55 million years later, her bad day is telling scientists that they need to reconsider the age of the orchid family. That tree sap preserved for the ages a pollen sac attached to the gnat's leg, and it is the earliest known evidence of the diverse family of flowering plants.

The round object under the fungus gnat's abdomen is an orchid pollinia.

Amber, fossilized tree sap, is really good at preserving things. In it, scientists have found ancient mammal blood inside a tick, a dinosaur feather, and plenty of insects and lizards. Orchid pollen sacs have been found in amber before, also attached to insects. But the previous oldest known specimen was found in Dominican amber that's 20 to 30 million years old. The new specimen, found in Baltic amber, is about twice as old.



Barney Moss/CC by 2.0



George Poinar, Oregon State University

“It wasn’t until a few years ago that we even had evidence of ancient orchids because there wasn’t anything preserved in the fossil record,” said George Poinar Jr., an entomologist at Oregon State University who led the study, in a press release. The sticky pollen sac, known as a pollinia, is a common feature of modern orchids, which use a variety of evolutionary tricks to attract pollinators and get their pollen from one flower to another. But finding such an old example of a pollinia shows that the orchid family was pretty well-evolved when the gnat got stuck, back when palm trees grew in Alaska and India was just butting into Asia. That means the first orchids were probably blooming back during the Cretaceous, when dinosaurs were still at the top of the food chain.

Today there are around 28,000 species of orchid, and some of them are still up to their incredibly old ruses, fooling modern fungus gnats into picking up pollinia.

Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting, January 22, 2018

The meeting of January 24, 2018 was held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. We have two new members, Andrew Richmond and Paul Henn. Poul Hansen and Sasha Kubicek presented the show table.



Secretary’s Report: Alida Bower moved and Kathryn Collins seconded that the minutes from the November meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer’s Report: Jill Livesey presented the financial report for the period of November 1st to December 31st, 2017, and moved for acceptance, seconded by Ingrid Ostrander.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notes:

Diana will be emailing a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work at the Spring Show.

Don Mills asked for someone to help with the gathering of donations for the Silent Auction, as both he and his wife Marilyn have been ill this past month and are behind schedule. Alida offered to help.

Diana reported that the Virus Kits can be picked up at the sales table this evening.

Other Reports:

AOS- John reported that the next judging will be February 10th in Richmond. Both he and Poul will be going and are able to take members plants if necessary.

Library- Ian asked members to notify him if they have knowledge of the missing books listed in the recent email sent out by Diana. Alida said she will ask members of two other groups that hold their meetings at the hall about our missing books. Ian also announced that he will be stepping down from the position. He is looking for someone to replace him. Let him know if you’re interested.

Membership- Kathryn reported there are 66 members registered.

Newsletter- Diana reported that the volunteer sign-up sheet is coming out.

Plant Orders- Sasha reported that Paramount will be at our Spring show, Ecuagenera and Ching Hua will be at the VOS show on March 23rd weekend, with pre-ordering available. He is willing to walk anyone through pre-ordering who hasn't done it before. In the Fall, there will be more opportunities to order again from other vendors.

Plant Sales- Coreen has lots of plants for sale this evening.

Prize Draws- John reminded everyone to purchase their tickets during the break.

Programs- Rod reviewed the upcoming programs. Ingrid Ostrander will speak in February on *Preparing Your Orchids for the Show*, March will be Rotating Stations, and the Annual Auction will be held in April.

Workshops- Geoffrey Haywood has arranged workshops with GardenWorks for their 'Orchid Obsession' on February 10th and 11th, with Joe Chow at the Oak Bay store and Geoff at the Blenkinsop store. Sasha reported that the Colwood store has been in touch with him and he will be holding a workshop there.

Supply Sales- Catherine has lots of supplies available tonight and she will be getting more baskets.

Website- Diana reported that the Spring Show information will be on the website very soon.

Spring Show- Melanie informed everyone that Sasha had to step back as co-chair. She will continue on. She reviewed what has been organized so far and reported the changes made at the Executive meeting for the Gala evening. This will now be called the Preview and Awards Night and will be a catered event. She asked people to RSVP to her email so she can give a number to give to the Caterer. She also put forth a motion to increase the amount of funds available to cover the cost of the catering.

MOTION: Melanie Norris moved that the funds available for the Executive to spend be increased from \$600 to \$1,000 to cover the cost of catering for the Spring Show Preview and Awards Night, seconded by John Taylor.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alida will be assisting Melanie and she explained the catering and cash bar will be available for the evening. Donations will be accepted toward orchid conservation. The specific fund will be decided after the show. Those who would like to participate in the Trophy sponsorship for a \$25 donation, see Kathryn.

Social Media- Melanie spoke about using Facebook for advertising the Spring Show, stating the price of placing an ad in the local papers has risen greatly. Some of the newer members agreed it was through Facebook that they decided to attend the meeting. Margaret Prat from VOS has stated they noticed attendance at their summer show increased three times from previous shows by using Facebook. Melanie also reported that Brad Taylor will be promoting our Spring Show on his site.

Program: John introduced Patrick van Adrichem who spoke on *The Journey to Growing Better Orchids*. John thanked Patrick for his presentation.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2018 at the Gordon Head Church Hall.

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 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. 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. 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.

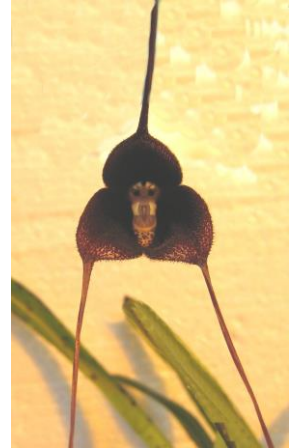
Membership fees are \$25.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for households. The Society membership year runs from September to September, but meetings are not held in July and August. Name tags are available for \$9.00, magnetized tags are \$11.00.

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 & W 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.



Dracula pholeodytes

Officers:

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

Newsletter Editor: Diana Rowles

Web Master: Blair Humphrey

Proofreader: Joe Chow

Librarian: Ian Nugent

Spring Show Chair: Melanie Norris

Programs Chairman: Rodney Crutcher

Directors:

Joyce Wilson
Catherine Frutiger
Coreen Kempling
Rodney Crutcher
Elsie Gerdes
Ian Nugent
Antoanetta Dertlieva
Melanie Norris
Astrid Firley-Eaton



Mps. Sweet Surprise 'Gabrielle' HCC/AOS

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

Reminders & Opportunities

Future VIC OS International Speakers:

2018-2019: Sept 24 2018 – Roy Tokunaga, H&R Confirmed, October 22 2018 Wenqing Perner

2019–2020: Sept 23, 2019 - Fred Clarke - confirmed

Members' Treasures: Remember that there is a section on the website for pictures of special orchids which have bloomed for members “out of season” for meeting displays. Our plants aren't always at their best when meeting time rolls around. Take a photo when your plant is at its peak display and send it to me with some information about it and it will be placed in the **Members' Treasures** on the website.

A new treasure this month: Alida Bower's fabulous *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Anne Buckleberry. It was too big to bring to the January meeting for the display table, so you really should check it out.

Classifieds



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What's in bloom in the Orchid Collection

Oxystophyllum [Oxystophyllum.] atropurpureum

Thirsty six species make up this genus that originally stood as its own section in *Dendrobium* genus. The plants are characterized as a small, creeping, clumping or pendulous plants with very short, often thick stems carrying a few leaves that bloom on short, few flowered inflorescences carrying flowers with a distinctive colored lip apex and prominent wings or ribs on the ovary. The genus name is derived from oxy meaning pointed and phyllum meaning leaves.

This particular species, often referred to as the Dark Purple *Dendrobium*, is found in New Guinea near the coast.

It was first described by Karl Ludwig von Blume in 1849. The single flower per inflorescence is a thick, fleshy blossom with a dark claret or maroon pointed lip. Flowers are somewhat short-lived.

This plant was purchased by the OSPF from Ecuagenera in April 2017 and is kept in hot house on the sunnier side in high humidity.



Scaphosepalum [Sppm.] decorum

This another new genus to feature in this column. The genus has about 50 species that are found in mossy cloud forests from Guatemala to Peru up to elevations of 3000 meters. The genus name refers to the fused sepals that form a basin under the column.

The common name of this species is The Graceful *Scaphosepalum* and it is found in Cauca, southern Colombia, as a cool growing epiphyte at elevations around 1800 meters.

This plant was purchased by the OSPF from Equaflor-A in June of 2016 and is kept on the shade side of our intermediate house.



Sources for all of the above and below are

Charles Baker

OrchidWiz

Orchid Photographic Encyclopedia

Photographs by Doug Bovee / Dave Nixon.

The Plant List

Lankesteriana 13(3): 215-227. 2014

Wikipedia

The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species by Bechtel, Cribb and Launert

Pleurothallis [Pths.] canalicera

The *Pleurothallis* species can be found in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru at between 1200 to 2700 meters.

It is commonly referred to as the “Groove Carrying *Pleurothallis*” and it produces a cluster of tiny flowers (5 mm) at the base of the leaves.

The OSPF purchased this plant from Ecuagenera in April 2017 and it is grown on the shade side of our cold greenhouse.



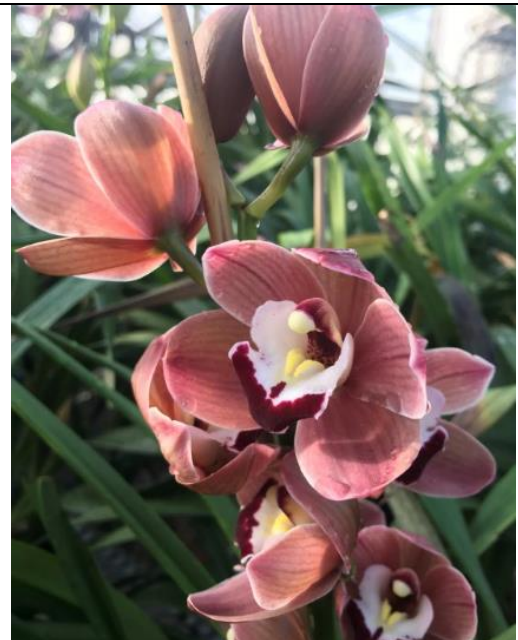
Cymbidium [Cym.] Solana Beach

About 10% of the collection is hybrids and it was *Cymbidium* time in the greenhouse in early January. So I selected two examples, the first is *Cymbidium* Solana Beach. This is complex hybrid made from *Cymbidium* Rincon x *Cymbidium* Atlantes. In total, six *Cymbidium* species were used to produce this hybrid. It takes high light and is grown in bright, indirect light conditions on the sunnier side of our cold greenhouse. This hybrid was first awarded by the Cymbidium Society of America back in 1977.

Cymbidium Fuss “Fantasy” which is another complex cross containing characteristics from eight *Cymbidium* species and needs similar conditions as Solana Beach. Both hybrids are often cultivated outdoors in the US. This hybrid was very popular in orchid shows in the late 1970’s early 1980s, picking up 20 awards between the AOS and CSA where it was described as a “Novelty *Cymbidium*”.



Cymbidium Solana Beach



Cymbidium Fuss “Fantasy”