



Victoria Orchid Society



**Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' grown by Toni Derlieva
was chosen as the best plant on display at the
February meeting.**

*Welcome to new members Karoline Milolajewski,
Betsy Theriault, Catharine Schlenker, Lisa Bengston,
Mary Ann Bodenberg, Lloyd & Linda Gilmorg, Rosalie D Queen
and returning member Tim Hayes*

From the Editor



Phrag. Joan Montmorency

2018 Meetings:

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

Members with
last names
starting with **A, B
& C** are asked to
bring goodies for
the March
meeting.

Welcome to spring! Welcome to more blooming orchids! Welcome to new members!
A great new year ahead.

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



President's Message

The VicOS show is over for the year and was a great success. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed so much. A very special thanks to Melanie Norris who acted as show chair.

It is amazing how quickly March has crept up on us. After months of low light levels, the spring equinox is almost here, and suddenly, with equal days and nights, we are getting the same length of daylight as they get in the tropics (though I can't say it feels all that tropical out there, but it was 15°C today!). And this brings up the very important topic of greenhouse shading for those of us who have greenhouses. Mine, unfortunately, sits on top of a large rock, with sheer slopes all around. It has always been a real pain attaching shade clothes to the sides in the Spring and taking them down in the Fall. This has generally been accomplished by having one brave soul (not me) crawling across the top of the greenhouse roof. Not recommended. This year with the help of one of our knowledgeable society members (Thanks, Poul!), I am trying something new, namely applying shade paint. This was accomplished with a very long handle and a paint roller. For those who aren't familiar with this process, the paint is impervious to water (rain will not take off), but it can be fairly simply removed in the Fall with a release agent that acts on it chemically and allows it to be easily washed off.

The last few years the leaves of a number of my orchids have been looking rather yellow; I am thinking it's because the shade cloth only covers the sides of the greenhouse. It will be interesting to see how things go this year with the paint covering all of the outside.

The Vancouver Show is up next. I'm sure many of you have taken advantage of the vendors at this show to acquire new plants. Don't forget to send off your best specimens for the VicOS display. There will be AOS judging at the show, so any display plants can be considered for awards.

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.

There will be no pre-meeting workshop for this meeting as it will be a very practical session and presenters need time to set up their stations.

Spring 2018

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'

March 26th Meeting – Rotating stations on potting and mounting orchids.

There will be three stations and each session will take about 30 minutes. Attendees are expected to move from one station to the next, so that everyone will get a chance to see each presenter. They are:

Station A. – Repotting Cymbidiums with Joe Chow

Station B. – Repotting Cattleya's and Phalaenopsis with Poul Hansen

Station C. – Mounting Orchids with Don Mills & Rick Rancourt

March 23rd -25th – The Vancouver Orchid Society 2018 Annual Show and Sale will occur at the Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens. Don & Marilyn Mills will be taking our plants to Vancouver and setting up the VicOS display. Lioba has kindly loaned her van for the weekend. Plants should be delivered by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 22nd, to be loaded on the first ferry on Friday morning. Remember to fill out a plant entry form (which can be downloaded from the VicOS website). Be sure to put your name on each of your plants (out of sight) and on the container in which you send them. Don & Marilyn will bring them back on Sunday night and they can be picked up after 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

VOS 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

Past Events

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

Ingrid explained how to prepare plants for display and Judging at Shows. She is a master at preparing plants for display and passes on this information with grace and humour. As usual, the presentation was both enjoyable and informative.

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 February 10, 2018, no AOS awards were granted.

March 2-5 VicOS Spring Show & Sale “Orchids in Nature”

We were blessed with the perfect weather for our show this year: bright and sunny so that people wanted to get out of the house, but still too cold for gardening. We had a steady flow of people through Saturday and most of Sunday and sales appeared to be brisk. We do not have the final numbers yet, but it seems to have been a very successful show. The Silent Auction drew a lot of attention and there were some wonderful items donated from businesses in the community as well as individual donors. See the list on our website.

The Friday evening social was well attended and the catered appies were great. Bryan Emery provided a wonderful dessert table, filled with incredible goodies that he had baked himself (and on his birthday!!).

Many thanks to all the volunteers: those who took on major preparatory activities such as the Silent Auction (Astrid Firley-Eaton, Marilyn Mills and Don Mills), management of the social (Leda Bower), the set-up of the Hall (Poul Hansen & crew), Registration (Kathryn Collins & crew), The display designers (Coreen Kempling & crew) Ribbon Judging (Joe Chow & crew) as well as all those members who filled the volunteer spots to actually run the show throughout the two days. Lioba Samer, once again kept all the workers fed with lovely sandwiches and homemade goodies as well as tea and coffee.

Thanks also to the AOS judges and the Vendors, who are so critical to a major show.



Photo by Astrid Firley Eaton



Melanie Norris chaired the show, encouraging more attendance and membership via social media. Kudos to her for all her hard work in putting the show together – a complicated and time consuming task.

◀ *Show Champion:*
Lc. Drumbeat ‘Heritage’
Paramount Orchids

Reserve Champion ▶
Phrag. Amitabha
Poul Hansen



Displays



VicOS display



VOS display



VOS
display
details

Best theme
interpretation



CVIOS display



Paramount display



Joe Chow display



Bryan Emery display



G Poul Hansen display



Pat van Adrichem display

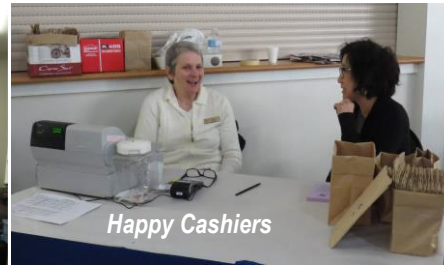
The Workers



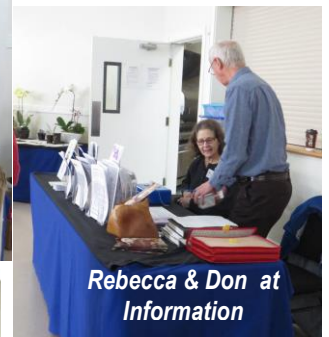
Kathryn & Toni



Lioba, a boon to hungry workers



Happy Cashiers



Rebecca & Don at Information



Take down



Blair, Barb & Melanie guarding the plants

The sales



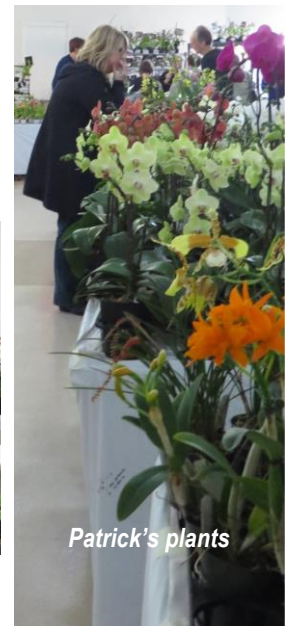
Paramount's Sales



Lots of plants



Brad Taylor



Patrick's plants

The Talks & the Art display



Toni's talk



Joe's talk



The Art display

The Social Times



Alexey, Donna & Bryan

The Silent Auction



Birthday Boy & Baker
Photo by Astrid

For Show Trophy
Winners,
see

2018 show Report on the
VicOS Website

victoriaorchidsociety.com

March: The Month of Work - By Thomas Mirenda

(This article was originally published in the March 2015 issue of Orchids Magazine)

MOST OF US spend a lot more time working at our jobs than at any other activity. While life balance may seem somewhat out of whack for the workaholics among us, fulfilling work and accomplishment makes us feel proud, productive and engaged. For many of us, work gives meaning to our lives. Yet I fear so many of us doubt what we do has any impact at all. While I am lucky enough to have a job I'm passionate about, many among us only work to generate money, and the satisfaction these people get from the work itself is pretty negligible, if it exists at all. Sometimes when working for a large company we tend to get lost in the corporate machinery and, like cogs in a wheel, lose cognizance of the relevance of our daily tasks. If we don't believe what we are doing is important or worthwhile, why should we bother to get good at it?

I think all us humans fall into this syndrome from time to time and March is a month where inspiration may be scarce indeed. Everyone reading this has a unique life-history and perspective, much like the orchids we cultivate. We all have purpose and direction as well as lovely and nurturing personalities. I've never met an orchid grower who didn't. Whatever your role in this workaday world may be, you are part of the fascinating, vibrant and passionate world of orchid growing. What better thing could we aspire to than to spread that joy and passion we know so well to others? I hope I see you out there at the next orchid show doing exactly that!

BACK TO THE GRINDSTONE March, with its lengthening of days and warming of temperatures, marks the beginning of the growing season for many of us. Many of our orchids, such as Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums, have been blooming the last few months, but haven't done much vegetatively since

last fall and therefore haven't needed much in terms of water and fertilizer for quite a while. Now you should be seeing the beginnings of new growths, and most importantly, new green root tips. This is your signal that growth has resumed; repotting season has come and you need to be ready!

SUPPLY CHAIN It may seem a bit premature, but now is the time to stock up on the supplies you'll need for the onslaught of repotting necessary in the coming months. Your friends at the garden center will be so happy to see you and are likely to give you first-rate customer service because their business is still pretty slow until spring is in earnest next month. Get the jump on your orchid needs by purchasing fresh potting mix and a wide variety of containers in an array of useful sizes, both clay and plastic, as well as mounts and baskets, rhizome clips and stability stakes. Get enough so that you won't have to interrupt your rhythm and momentum during potting season to head back to the store for just a bit more.

PRIDE IN YOUR WORK If you haven't worked with your plants in a while, get out the books and review your potting techniques, and maybe invite a friend (or that curious teenager across the street) to help you. Sometimes showing someone else how to do something is the best reminder for protocols, such as how to strategize against spreading virus, potting securely and effectively and keeping an eye out for problems such as pests and pathogens that might have gone unnoticed in a crowded winter greenhouse. Reward your helpers with a nice healthy division of something pretty and vigorous that grows easily. This is to ensure they get the orchid bug too!

FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR The work you put into your collection this month as well as in April and May will invariably influence your success for the rest of the year. Plants that are neglected in the spring rarely perform well in the long term. While some plants will bloom a little better when slightly root-bound, waiting too long to repot will eventually lead to declining health and even death. Search your collection for plants that have grown past their pot rims (with obstreperous aerial roots) or don't dry out (due to rotting roots or broken-down mixes) or have weeds and ferns taking over, crowding out your precious orchids. There is nothing quite like a fresh potting job to fix a multitude of potential orchid problems. A little hard work now will repay you in boatloads of floral productivity this coming year!

—**Thomas Mirenda** has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is an AOS accredited judge. He recently co-authored *The Book of Orchids: a life-size guide to 600 species of orchids from around the world*. Tom recently assumed the directorship of horticulture, education and outreach at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden. (E-mail: biophiliak@gmail.com; www.htbg.com)

**Victoria Orchid Society
Minutes of General Meeting, February 26, 2018**

The meeting of February 26, 2018 was held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were no new members or guests. Ingrid Ostrander and Poul Hansen presented the show table.

Secretary's Report: Leda Bower moved and Jon DeLaurier seconded that the minutes from the January 22, 2018 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Cattleya mossiae

Treasurer's Report: Jill Livesey presented the financial report for the month of January, 2018 and moved for acceptance, seconded by Ingrid Ostrander.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notes:

Kathryn Collins spoke on the need to increase the amount of the 'float' for the Spring Show to cover the change in expenses, such as catering and a bartender for the Friday night Preview and Awards Night.

MOTION: Kathryn Collins moved that the float for the Spring Show be increased from \$5,000.00 up to \$6,500.00 to cover all the expenses incurred before the Show, seconded by Astrid Firley-Eaton.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Barb Davies reported that she had on behalf of the Society, sent a condolence card to Alexey Tretyakov and his family regarding the recent loss of his wife Mila, from cancer.

Other Reports:

AOS- John reported that the next judging will be at our Spring Show, Saturday, March 3rd. Members can bring plants for AOS judging only, if they wish. Kathryn explained that if you want plants judged at the VOS show in two weeks, she has cards available to fill out. Also she has cards to put with your plants, if you do not want them to be judged at our show.

COC-Sasha sent a report that he is in Vancouver and will be picking up the COC trophy from Calvin to bring back for our show this weekend.

Library- Ian reported that he has not had any feedback re: the missing books. John reported that he also has not had any response from the Hall contact people. He said that he will try again to ask for access to the locked classroom to check for the books.

Membership- Kathryn reported there are 70 members registered. She will have a membership card ready for new member, Lynne Johnson and she asked for a new membership list be sent out by Diana. **Plant Orders-** Sasha reported pre-orders for plants from Ecuagenera and Ching Hua need to be sent in very soon for pick-up at the VOS show on March 23rd weekend. Some members stated that they have not received confirmation on their pre-orders being received from Ecuagenera.

Plant Sales- Coreen has plants from Jonathan Littau for sale this evening.

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

Programs- Rod reviewed the upcoming programs: March will be Rotating Stations, and the Annual Auction will be held in April. Rod is not sure if Alexey Tretyakov will be available to speak in May due to the recent loss of his wife to cancer. International speaker Alan Koch from "Gold Country" will be at the June meeting. Rod also announced that in October we hope to have another International speaker from China, Wenqing Perner and hopefully she will be bringing plants.

Workshops- Joe Chow reported that no further workshops are organized as Geoff Haywood has injured his back.

Website- Diana reported that the names of the Sunday Show speakers will be added. Toni Dertlieva asked for more volunteers to speak, as she only has two people at this time.

Spring Show- Melanie updated everyone on the preparations for the show and asked members if they could bring as many of their blooming plants to fill our display table. It is not necessary for the plants to be there for judging. She spoke of visiting Phoebe Dunbar in Sooke, who is a wood artist and has offered to loan some of her wood pieces to us for use on the display table, as the theme of this year's show is "Orchids in Nature". Set up starts on Thursday and plant registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday. There are 79 people registered to attend the Friday night Preview and Awards Night and two door prizes have been donated. Jonathan Littau will have a vendor's table this year. Diana asked for more volunteers, especially for packers at the cashier's table. Barb asked for one or two more helpers to put out the show signs along the sides of the roads Saturday morning. Don Mills reminded everyone that he and his wife Marilyn, will be taking plants over to the VOS Spring show in two weeks. Please bring your plants to his house on March 22nd. Lioba has donated the use of her van again this year.

Program: John turned over the program to Ingrid and Poul who spoke on *Preparing Your Orchids for a Show*.

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

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. 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 A, B, & C for the March 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:

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

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Web Master: Blair Humphrey

Proofreader: Joe Chow

Librarian: Ian Nugent

Spring Show Chair: Melanie Norris

Programs Chairman: Rodney Crutcher

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

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



Epidendrum Joseph Li Kultana

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

The 2018 Spring Show and Plant Sale of the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society will be held at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria BC on Friday, April 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. and on Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The members' plant sale will open 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

This is a well-established show, featuring wonderful rock and alpine garden plants, succulents, woodlanders and bog plants. As well as show entries, there will be commercial and member plant sales, seed sales, displays, door prizes, a silent auction, and refreshments. Admission is by donation.

For more information go to: www.virags.com
or email: virags.news@gmail.com

THE VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK AND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW



Friday, April 20- 1 pm to 8 pm

Saturday, April 21- 9 am to 3 pm

Club Members' Plant Sale - 11 am on Saturday

Come to see rock and alpine, succulent, woodland and wetland plants. There will be plant and seed sales, door prizes, a silent auction, tea and more!

Cadboro Bay United Church
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria
Admission by donation

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