



Victoria Orchid Society



This lovely Paphiopedilum delenatii, grown by Patricia Angehrn, was chosen as the best plant on display at the March meeting.

2018 Meetings:

Spring
April 23rd
May 28th
June 25th

Members with last names starting with **D, E & F** are asked to bring goodies for the April meeting.

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Lc. Cariad's Mini Quinee 'Angel Kiss'

The society has been asked to take charge of his orchid collection and will be selling them off to fund a scholarship for a Camosun College Student.

Sad News

Geoffrey Haywood passed away last week after a lengthy illness. Geoff was a long time and valued member of our society. He will be greatly missed.

Our sincerest sympathies to his friends and family.

From the Editor

Sasha Kubicek has agreed to be a regular contributor to the VicOS newsletter. He is widely travelled and has a great interest in conservation in general and orchid conservation in particular. His first article is in this newsletter, which is a fitting pointer to the excellent article by Tom Shields, COC's Conservation Officer, **Orchids in our Backyards**, starting on page 11 in this newsletter.

www.victoriaorchidsociety.com

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

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

Logo photo D. Rowles



John Taylor

President's Message

For those of you seeking to expand your collections, our annual auction at the meeting this month is a great opportunity to find interesting plants at a reasonable price. I know from past experience that some real gems often turn up. So bring your cheque books and extra pennies.

A number of people have mentioned an interest in orchid conservation and the possibility of having our society involved. This is definitely something that orchid societies do participate in. Some time ago I belonged to the David Thompson Orchid Society out of Red Deer, Alberta (now sadly defunct--the society, not the city). We had the opportunity to transplant a large number of *Cypripedium parviflorum* that were in an area that was going to be developed for housing. The Society got together on a series of weekends and moved the plants to a more secure location.

Anyone who gets out to the Ottawa region in early summer should have a look at the nearby Purdon Conservation Area. Joe Purdon was a farmer who found a few dozen clumps of *Cypripedium reginae* on his land in the 1930's and through careful management greatly increased their numbers. He transplanted them throughout a swampy part of his property (properly known as fen wetland). The tract now has 400 metres of wooden walkways. In mid-June to early July, thousands of these pink and white slipper orchids can be seen in bloom. At last count some 16,000 plants. Active management of the site involves thinning brush to maintain light levels, water level management and hand-pollination. The Ottawa Orchid Society has taken a special interest in the Purdon fen, and is actively helping with the conservation work there. For those who aren't familiar with this cypripedium, it is undoubtedly the most beautiful of our native species, and one of the most beautiful of all orchids.

Be sure to look at the article in this issue on native orchids and conservation by Sasha Kubicek, a long-time member who is very knowledgeable about native species. He discusses local orchid species in bloom this month.

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.

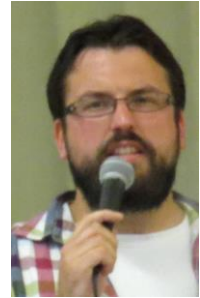
There will be no pre-meeting workshop for this meeting as the VicOS Auction will take up all the time and everyone's energy.

Spring 2018

April 23rd – Annual Auction
May 28 – Alexey Tretyakov –
Orchid Nutrition
June 25th – Alan Koch -
Species Habitat and
Hybrid Culture'

April 23 meeting – VicOS Annual Auction

Our annual auction is always a great event. We have about 100 orchids on the block, managed by our expert auctioneer, Bryan Emery. This event is open to the public, so invite your friends to attend. There will be many great buys. Joe Chow, the organizer of the event, will show photos on the screen while the plant lots are held up for bidding. Come to browse the tables starting at 7:00 p.m. The bidding will start soon after 7:30 p.m.



Bidding paddles and detailed instruction on the procedure will be available at the information table at the entrance to the hall. Those wishing to bid on plants must sign out a paddle and collect instructions.

Past Events

March 23rd -25th – The Vancouver Orchid Society 2018 Annual Show and Sale was held at the *Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens*.

Total	
VicOS	Blue = 14
Ribbons	Red = 14
	White = 8

Vancouver Orchid Show Results Total ribbons won by VicOs plants

Don & Marilyn Mills received Best of Class for *Microteamyia hariotiuna* for both 2.21 and 12.6

AOS nominations were received by Cat Frutiger for *Bct. Julie Morrison & Oeoniella polystachys* and Diana Rowles, for *Phragmipedium Inca Fire* and *Cattleychea Siam Jade*.



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

The three stations at the March meeting were very informative and drew attentive audiences. Everyone went home with a number of potting tips. Greenhouses and potting rooms must be buzzing.



Poul Hansen - repotting

Joe Chow – Potting Cymbidiums

Rick Rancourt & Don Mills – Mounting 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 judging at the Victoria Orchid Society Show on March 3, 2018, the following AOS awards were granted:

Show Trophy ‘Meditation Space’ ST/AOS 83pts

Paphiopedilum Calgary Ken ‘Paramount’s Ingrid Ostrander’ AM/AOS 80pts
(*Paphiopedilum* Double Deception x *Paphiopedilum* Macabre)
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids

Dendrobium Aussie’s Chip ‘The One’ CCM/AOS 83pts
(*Dendrobium aberrans* x *Dendrobium atroviolaceum*)
Exhibitor: Alexey Tretyakov

Phalaenopsis Kingfisher’s Dragon Wing ‘Caleta’ AM/AOS 86pts
(*Phalaenopsis* John Ewing ‘KFO’ x *Phalaenopsis* Dragon Tree Eagle ‘DT #4’ AM/AOS)
Exhibitor: Pat van Adrichem | Kingfisher Orchids



Phalaenopsis Kingfisher's Dragon Wing 'Sunset Ember' AM/AOS 80pts
(*Phalaenopsis* John Ewing 'KFO' x *Phalaenopsis* Dragon Tree Eagle 'DT #4' AM/AOS)
Exhibitor: Pat van Adrichem | Kingfisher Orchids



Phalaenopsis Kingfisher's Dragon Wing AQ/AOS (20187056)
(*Phalaenopsis* John Ewing 'KFO' x *Phalaenopsis* Dragon Tree Eagle 'DT #4' AM/AOS)
Exhibitor: Pat van Adrichem | Kingfisher Orchids



Award Photos by Judith Higham, AOS Show Trophy by Ed Higham

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's judging at the Vancouver Orchid Society Show on March 24, 2018, the following AOS awards were granted:

Oncidium (Tiger Crow x Hans Koch) 'Paramount's Ben Fischer' HCC/AOS 77pts
(*Oncidium* Tiger Crow x *Oncidium* Hans Koch)
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids
award provisional pending hybrid registration



Phragmipedium Perufflora's Cirila Alca 'Alicia Linee' AM/AOS 81pts
(*Phragmipedium* kovachii x *Phragmipedium* dalessandroi)
Exhibitor: Yolanda Breck



Cymbidium goeringii 'Mo Yin' HCC/AOS 78pts
Exhibitor: Daniel Kwok



Phragmipedium Paul Eugene Conroy 'Alice' CCM/AOS 85pts
(*Phragmipedium* wallisii x *Phragmipedium* longifolium)
Exhibitor: Uli Schmidt

Award Photos by Judith Higham

Please note that for the WCJC monthly judging in APRIL 2018, instead of the usual date, time and place, the meeting will be held on FRIDAY April 6, 2018 at 2:00pm at Enjoy Centre, 101 Riel Drive, St Albert, AB after the Orchid Society of Alberta show judging. (There will NOT be a separate monthly judging on April 14 in BC.)

Abu Salleh, AOS Western Canada Judging Center.

April-Native Species/Conservation Corner

Photos and article by Sasha Kubicek

Spring is here and so are the first of Greater Victoria's native orchid species. Heart-Leaved Twayblade (*Neottia [Listeria] cordata*) is the first of our species to bloom. This is the smallest of our native species and very hard to locate in the field due to its small size.



Plants of Neottia cordata are tiny and hard to spot



Neottia cordata

The second species to bloom in April is our prettiest, the Pink Lady Slipper (*Calypso bulbosa var. occidentalis*). Plants growing in low elevation locations are the first to bloom with the peak blooming occurring at the end of April and start of May. A little known fact is that they can have a lovely fragrance on a sunny day.



Leaf and emerging spike of Calypso



Calypso bulbosa var. occidentalis

Where to find these species? Both grow primarily in old growth Douglas Fir forests.

Unfortunately this type of habitat is very rare in Greater Victoria and on Vancouver Island. The logging of old growth forest and continual urbanization seem to have no end in sight. To learn more about trying to protect the remaining forests visit

<https://www.ancientforestalliance.org/>



If you are lucky enough to visit their habitat, please consider the following:

Stay on trails. Resist the urge to find drier ground on the sides of trails which, ironically, is the prime habitat for orchids. As foot traffic increases, a twelve inch foot path can turn into an eroded lifeless walk way when people are not conscious of their impact. Also, resist the urge to get right beside the orchid to take a photograph. Compacting the soil around an orchid even up to one meter can damage or destroy the complex fungi and root systems below ground.

During my 20+ years of exploring and monitoring native orchid species in the parks of Greater Victoria, I have found that the biggest impact to orchid habitat has been from dogs.

If you have to bring your dog into these sensitive ecosystems, I urge you to please keep your dog on a leash, to prevent the scratching and trampling of delicate plants, and to pick up all dog feces. Dog feces kill all orchid life around them. Feces acidify and toxify the soil, destroying critical fungal networks beneath the ground. To learn more visit-
<https://pethelpful.com/dogs/Why-Pick-up-Dog-Poop-The-Dangers-of-Dog-Feces>.



It is critical for us as orchid enthusiasts to get out there and to enjoy our native species in a sustainable manner. We can champion their preservation for future generations.

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

The General meeting of March 26, 2018 was held at the Gordon Head United Church hall. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. We had nine new guests. Their names were Adam, Melissa, Barb x2, Monica, Susan x2, June, and Laurie. Poul Hansen presented the show table.



Cattleya mossiae

Secretary's Report: Leda Bower moved and Joe Chow seconded that the minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jill Livesey presented the financial report for the month of February, 2018 and moved for acceptance, seconded by Poul Hansen.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notes:

Kathryn Collins stated that she is still awaiting some more information to complete the Spring Show financial report and should be able to present the report at the next General meeting.

Barb Davies reported that Joyce Wilson had sent a letter of resignation from the executive because of health reasons. Barb has sent Joyce a card thanking her for her many years of hard work for the Society. President John Taylor stated that he also has sent a card to Joyce thanking her.

Other Reports:

AOS: John reported the next judging will be in Edmonton, April 6th and will be back in Victoria in May.

Library: Ian reported that the library will be closed for the April meeting to accommodate the annual plant auction. Ian is still looking for a volunteer to take over the library from him in September.

Membership: Kathryn reported we have 86 registered members.

Plant Sales: Coreen is away, both Jill and Astrid are filling in for her. Plants are selling well tonight.

Programs: Rod reported that next month's annual auction can accept more plants, so speak to Joe if you have any to donate. He confirmed that Alexey Tretyakov will be our speaker for May, noting that he is very knowledgeable on the subject of orchids. June's speaker will be Alan Koch from California, speaking on Species Habitat and Hybrid Culture. Rod is working on organizing open greenhouse tours again during the summer months.

Shows: Don Mills gave a report on the VOS Spring show held March 23rd & 24th. He reported that all forms submitted had been taken by the VOS committee and were not returned to each society, stating this made for difficulties. He suggested a standard registration form for all B.C. Societies. Don also reported that four plants from our members, had received nominations at the show. He reported that the show was well done and the Okanagan Society's display was spectacular. Ingrid sent a note, asking for someone attending each show to turn all the black labels around so that no names are showing.

Supply Sales: Catherine will be placing a new order with Repotme. Please send her an email if you wish anything included in the order.

Website: Diana reported that Blair has had a request to swap links with Oak Hill Gardens, who have some educational orchid culture resources.

New Business:

Joe Chow reported that he has received seven plants for the auction next month. He asked members to email pictures of any of their plants that they wish to place in the auction, so he can put together the slide presentation soon.

Don Mills reported that Geoff Haywood is downsizing his collection and a list of plants available for sale, will be sent out to all members.

Program: The group was divided into three and rotated through three work stations.

1. Joe Chow - Repotting *Cymbidiums*
2. Poul Hansen – Repotting *Miltonias*
3. Don Mills & Rick Rancourt – Mounting Orchids

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by 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 D, E, & F for the April 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

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

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



Epidendrum Joseph Lii '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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Orchids in Your Backyard *by Tom Shields*

No matter where you live in Canada you will find orchids. I'm not talking about the ones in containers at your local grocery or big box store, or those at your florist's or neighbourhood nursery. The ones I'm referring to also don't boast fancy cultivar names or hefty price tags. Instead they will cost you nothing above some careful research and preparation plus a trip or three, with the only disadvantage being that, once you find them, you can't take them home.

I am, of course, speaking about our native orchids, the ones that grow here naturally and which should always be left undisturbed where they are. Now if it astonishes you to learn that these orchids can be found in every province and territory and in all sorts of terrain—mountains, prairies, wetlands, farmlands, beaches, forests, the rugged Canadian Shield—even tundra—you are not alone.

Fig. 1: Calypso bulbosa



The Fairy Slipper (Calypso bulbosa) is one of our most spectacular species. It makes its home in wet coniferous forests and bogs across Canada save in Nova Scotia and P.E.I. Credit: Thomas Sampliner

All told 74 native orchid species plus three exotics share this vast and bountiful land with us. They are not evenly distributed but every province and territory has some. Ontario's "deep south" peninsula gives that province the greatest number, at 62, but other jurisdictions are hardly depauperate. Québec and New Brunswick boast 50 and 43, respectively, while Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, B.C., and Manitoba in order claim 39, 38, 37, and 36. Petite P.E.I. surprises with 28, Saskatchewan claims 27 and Alberta 24. Perhaps most astounding are the Northwest Territories' 19, the Yukon's 17, and Nunavut's 13. Caribou and Arctic fox surely wander past our orchids on their travels!

True, such numbers can't compare with the thousands of species found in countries closer to the Equator where orchids are thought to have originated. Yet many of those we're blessed with are strikingly showy and often fragrant of such rapturous aromas as spice, cloves, vanilla, and raspberries, while even those with small flowers reveal fascinating features that charm and intrigue.

Consider these generic examples, species of which grow across Canada:

- Lady's Slipper orchids (*Cypripedium* species) bloom from mid-May to mid-July. Their blooms are large and brilliant, and some are wonderfully fragrant.

Figs. 2-4 as per caption order below.



Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) at left, Large Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cyp. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) centre, and Pink Lady's Slipper or Moccasin flower (*Cyp. acaule*) at right. Credits: Kevin Tipson, left; Henry Glowka, centre, Ben Rostron, right

- Rein or Bog orchids (*Platanthera* species) bloom from early June to mid-August. Some have strikingly fringed lips, and several have sweet scents.

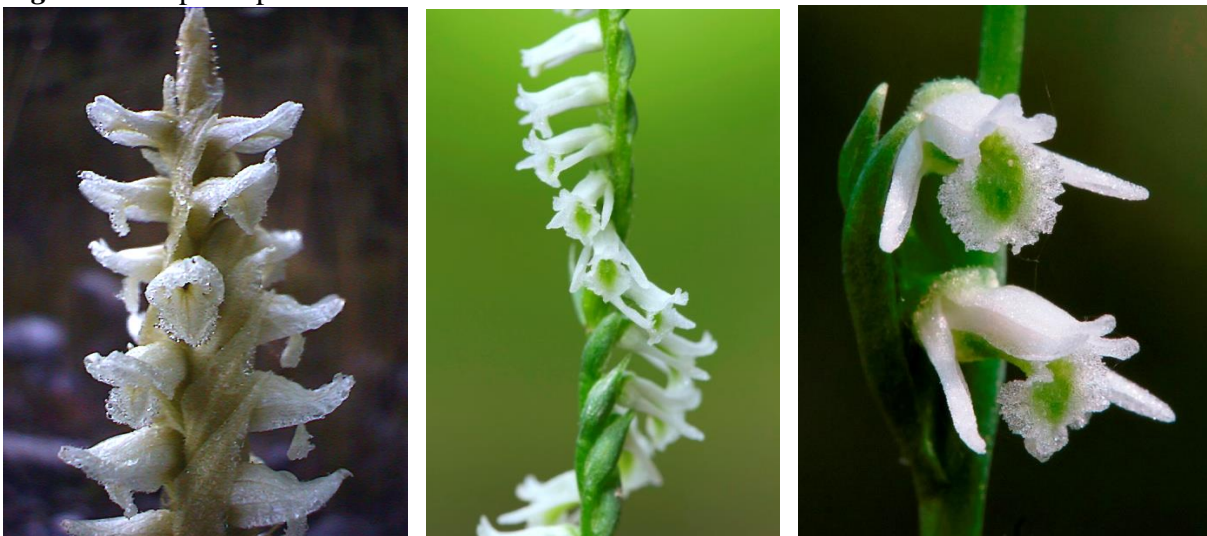
Figs. 5-7 as per caption order below



Tall White Bog Orchid (*Platanthera dilatata*) at left, Small Purple Fringed Orchid (*Plan. psycodes*) centre, and Round-Leaved Rein Orchid (*Plan. orbiculata*) at right. Credits: Kevin Tipson, left and centre; Ben Rostron, right

- Ladies' Tresses orchids (*Spiranthes* species) flower from mid-June right up to frost. Their flowers are small and white, but numerous and often fragrant.

Figs. 8-10 as per caption order below



Hooded Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) at left, and Slender Ladies' Tresses (*Spir. lacera*) at centre and right. Credits: Kevin Tipson, left, Ben Rostron, centre and right.

This necessarily swift survey can barely touch on the richness of our "backyard" orchid inheritance. Left for you to discover are spectacles with such marvellous monikers as the Dragon's Mouth, the Ram's Head, the Showy Orchis, the Rose Pogonia, the Coral-roots, the Rattlesnakes, the Twayblades, and more. Find them in the wild and your eyes and mind will widen in amazement at the fact that what we lack in numbers we more than make up for in quality. You'll likely be swept by a deep sense of humility at the privilege to witness these wondrous wild plants growing within a jaunt of where you live.

So what's keeping you in your seat? The perfect time for discovery walks is at hand! Call society friends and check the COC website under Orchid Information/ Canadian Native Orchids/Native Orchids of Canada for what's in your area. Then contact local park, conservation, and ecological reserves for the likely best spots, pack cameras and lunches, and hit the road and trails in high spirits! If you find a local naturalist to lead you to your first finds, all the better.

Your outings should prove exciting, educational, inspiring, healthful, bonding, and, above all, fun! However, before starting out make sure that everyone agrees to these few important rules of orchid etiquette:

- Go in small groups and walk single file to minimize habitat damage. Stick to trails when possible, and **NEVER WALK** on quaking sphagnum mats. They may suddenly give way and plunge you into the depths below.
- Tread carefully! Our orchids, all terrestrials, have extensive, sensitive root systems and symbiotic relationships with soil fungi, both of which can be easily damaged by footfalls and heavy packs placed even a metre away.

Fig. 11: Orchid enthusiasts exploring and photographing on fens





The margins of fens and other wetlands are good places to explore for native orchids.

Credits: Tom Shields

- For the same reason, use telephoto lenses to get close-ups. Early morning and late afternoon usually offer the best light. If other vegetation interferes, tie it temporarily out of the way with string.

Fig. 12: *Neottia (Listeria) cordata*



*The diminutive flowers of the Heart-Leaved Twayblade (*Neottia [Listeria] cordata*) are nevertheless fantastic. This orchid can be found in every province and territory. Credit: Henry Glowka*

- Keep records of where and when you went and what you saw, but keep them close! Poaching and habitat destruction threaten many orchid populations. Illegally digging up our orchids or picking their flowers almost always kills the plants. Trust only those with a resolute and testable commitment to conservation with your newfound knowledge.

Strike out on these pathways of adventure and the bounties for you and your fellow explorers will be immeasurable and lasting. Patches of land you once passed as uninteresting may prove irresistibly worth investigating.

Each wild species you find will reveal relationships with the plants around it, and with the soil, light and water levels, pollinators, and climate on which it depends. Parallels between these requirements and those of the captive orchids in your care should emerge, such as the need for both water and air at the roots. Witnessing our wild orchids should open your mind as to how precise orchid needs are and give you a powerful perspective on their need for protection. It may even make you a better grower. There is a wealth of wonder at your doorstep, and the thrill and rewards of that discovery are as close as your willingness to embrace the task.

***Tom Shields is the COC's Conservation Officer
and
Chair, Conservation Committee of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society***

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