



Victoria Orchid Society

Inside this issue:

- 2 President's Message
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 Past Events
- 4 Judging news
- 5 Some VicOS Memories
- 6 Carnivorous plants
- 7 Minutes of the May meeting
- 9 Society Information
- 10 Reminders & Opportunities
Classifieds
- 11-13 Conservation Corner
- 14-16 What's in bloom at
the Muttart



Dracula bella

From the Editor

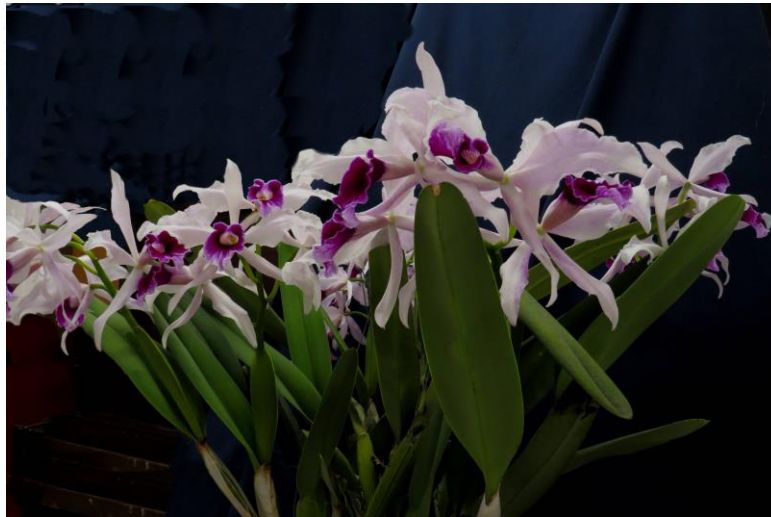
Toni and John Dertlieva held their annual plant sale on Saturday to support their projects in Rwanda, a program now in its 11th successful year: widow houses, eco stoves, orphans to boarding schools, intense gardens, composting toilets, mentoring youth into jobs, young mother support groups. More about John's work in Rwanda: <https://www.innovativecommunities.org/communities/rwanda/rwanda-initiatives/>
For day-to-day stories go to: <http://rwandanvillage.blogspot.ca/>

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 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



This glorious Cattleya purpurata 'Tovares', grown by Jill Livesey, was voted the best plant on the display table at the May meeting.

*Welcome to our three new members, Barbara Arrias,
Jayne Pullman and Grace Ross*

2018 Meetings:

*Spring
June 25th*

Members with last names starting with **K, L & M** are asked to bring goodies for the June meeting.



President's Message



John Taylor

Ah June! The month that summer begins. And our last meeting before the summer break. Traditionally, we also have our annual business meeting in June, a sort of meeting within a meeting (but of short duration), in which a number of reports are read and there is an election of society officers (the executive for the coming year). This year Rod Crutcher will be looking after the election process, and anyone interested in standing for a position should speak to him. Many thanks to Joe Chow who has looked after the election in previous years.

The talk that was originally scheduled for next meeting has unfortunately been cancelled due to the ill health of the speaker, Alan Koch. Aside from being an internationally recognized expert on the *Cattleya* alliance and a well-regarded speaker, it was hoped that he would also be bringing plants for sale from his Gold Country Orchids Nursery: particularly species and hybrid *Cattleyas*. However, all is not lost. He has been rebooked for a year from now in June 2019.

Spring 2018

*June 25th – Sasha Kubicek, -
World Slipper Orchid
Conference 2018 in Hilo, Hawaii".*

August 12th - Summer barbecue

July/August Open houses -TBA

In the meantime, Sasha Kubicek, a long-standing member of our society, has stepped into the breach and agreed to give a talk at the June meeting on his experiences at the World Slipper Orchid Conference (2018) held in Hilo, Hawaii. In addition to discussing some of the presentations by speakers well-known in the orchid world, he will also be showing slides of his ramblings on the Big Island and his visits to a couple of orchid nurseries. Should be interesting.

Sasha has also agreed to join the student judging (AOS) program this fall. Our chapter of the AOS is having their annual business meeting the weekend of the 10th and 11th in Vancouver (It seems June is the month for annual business meetings). In addition to the judging of submitted plants the extended meeting will also include a number of seminars on orchids and a few refresher tests for the judges. We are very fortunate in our society to have three fully accredited AOS judges and, with the addition of Sasha, there should also be two student judges in the fall.

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. Joe Chow will hold the June pre-meeting workshop. Please send your questions to Melanie Norris (melroga@telus.net).

June 25th General Meeting: Sasha Kubicek will present "*World Slipper Orchid Conference 2018 in Hilo, Hawaii*".

Sasha will present a slideshow to share his experience of attending the 2018 World Slipper Orchid Conference held on the Big Island of Hawaii this January 2018. He will show some of his pre-trip orchid hikes and exploration of the Big Island of Hawaii as well as orchid nursery tours of Hilo Orchid Farm and Lehua Orchids.

In addition, he will share highlights from a world class line up of speakers that presented at the show, including Harold Koopowitz, Philip Cribb, Popow Orchids, In-Charm Orchids, Hengduan Mountain Biotechnology and Ecuagenera.

The VicOS Annual General Meeting with the election of officers for the 2018/2019 year will also occur at this meeting. It is an important one, not one to miss.

August 12th - VicOS Summer Barbecue (pictures from 2017)

Bryan and Chris have, once again, kindly offered to host the summer barbecue in their beautiful garden. It is a fabulous setting and there may even be some lovely plants for sale.



Tickets will be on sale for \$15 at the June meeting. The meal will include hamburgers and hot dogs, salads and desserts. When you purchase your ticket, you are asked to indicate on a list how many hot dogs/hamburgers that you would like. This will allow careful planning for food purchases. Please plan to arrive around 4:00 p.m. to eat at 5:00 p.m.

As usual, we will have a brown bag prize draw, so please start planning to bring a prize or two. They do not have to be orchid related as long as they are nice items. Each item is put beside a numbered brown bag which contains a sticky label with the same number inside it. You will put the sticky label on your item(s) and people will deposit their draw tickets into the bag showing the number of the item they want to win.



Summer Open Greenhouses

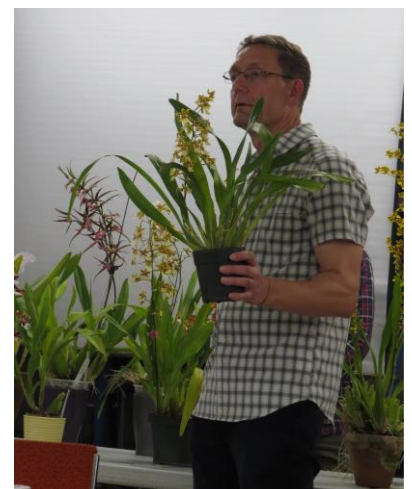
Once again, some members will open their greenhouses to VicOS members this summer. These will take place on one day in July and one in August. There are usually two or three greenhouses to visit each day. An email will be sent around to all members as soon as the times and places are definite. Don't miss this opportunity to see the different growing conditions that can produce beautiful orchids.

Past Events

May 28th general meeting - Alexey Tretyakov spoke on Orchid Nutrition

Alexey gave a very interesting presentation on what orchid nutrition means. In fact fertilizer is a very small part of what orchids need to thrive. There was so much information in the presentation that Alexey kindly sent us a set of notes covering the material. This has been forwarded to all members by email.

Many of us will be doing some revising of their growing systems. I certainly will.



Alexey at the display table

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 May 12, 2018, the following AOS awards were granted:

Phalaenopsis LD's Bear Queen 'Frostbite' AM/AOS 81pts
(*Phalaenopsis bellina* x *Phalaenopsis* Dragon Tree Eagle)
Exhibitor: Kingfisher Orchids



Bulbophyllum speciosum 'Kittiwake' AM/AOS 81pts
Exhibitor: Alida Bower



Pleurothallis inaequalis 'Eugene Banziger' CCM/AOS 80pts
Exhibitor: Eugene Banziger
*award provisional pending species identification



Acineta superba 'Eugene Banziger' CCM/AOS 84pts
Exhibitor: Eugene Banziger



Phalaenopsis (LD's Bear King x Dragon Tree Eagle) 'Longster' HCC/AOS 78pts
Exhibitor: Kingfisher Orchids
* award provisional pending hybrid registration



Photos by Judith Higham

Some VicOS memories.

Some photos from the past, courtesy of Mrs. Pat Warren. The photos were taken by her late husband, Rob Warren, a longtime member of the Society and an avid photographer.



Some other pictures show people that you may recognize. I have numbered each so that you can guess the identity of some of them. I will send the answers around by email in a few weeks.



Who Do You Know?

Carnivorous plants: an environmentally friendly way to control insects (Part 2)

By Jacques Bonneau translated from L'Orchiophile March 2015

Drosera capensis



Drosera capensis is a carnivorous plant from South African marshes. It is found mainly in the south-west of Cape Town where the climate is temperate and humid. It is a perennial, terrestrial plant, of which there are many forms and varieties. Its size varies between 10 and 25 cm. *Drosera capensis* is one of the two most cultivated carnivorous plants (with Venus flytrap) because it is easily found in gardens.

This sundew likes a humid temperate climate and in full sun, it will show the extent of its splendor. The ideal substrate is composed of 70% peat and 30% of non-calcareous sand. The ideal culture temperature ranges between 5 and 15°C winter and 20 to 40°C summer, with relative humidity ranging from 40 to 80%. We must keep the soil moist throughout the year by the presence of a saucer under the pot containing the water reserve, but we must reduce watering and remove the saucer in winter.

The leaves are linear and stalked, 8 mm wide, and covered with glandular hairs and translucent tights that are formidable traps for insects. Each adult plant produces, from May to October, the flower stalks up to 25 cm. Each flower stalk carries up to 20 small magenta flowers that open gradually. The flowers are self-fertilizing, and will release dozens of fine black seeds that can be sown in spring. High humidity allows for better preservation of mucilage on the leaves.

A full sun exposure suits this plant perfectly, although slightly less sunny spot can also be used. Propagation may be done by seeding or by cuttings of leaves and/or roots. This species is susceptible to aphids and fungi.

Pinguicula moranensis



Pinguicula moranensis is best known under the popular name of 'chubby'.



Pinguicula moranensis is a carnivorous plant from 10 to 20 cm in diameter that is native to Mexico. It usually blooms in late winter and in summer. It is a heterophilic plant, that is to say, its summer form (oblong, fleshy leaves) is different from its winter form (plus many leaves, smaller, pointed).

The leaves of rosettes Summer *Pinguicula moranensis* are smooth, stiff, succulent, varying in color from bright green to yellow brown. The lamina is generally obovate to orbicular, 5.5 to 13 cm long and supported on a petiole of 1 to 3.5 cm. As in all species of the genus, the leaf blades are densely covered with stalked mucilaginous glands and sessile digestive glands. The stalked glands contain some

secretory cells located at the top of a unicellular stalk. These cells produce a mucilaginous secretion which produces visible droplets on the surface of the sheet. This wet appearance probably helps lure prey in search of water. A similar phenomenon is observed in the sundews. The droplets secrete a limited amount of enzymes and are mainly used to trap insects. Contact with insect, the stalked glands release additional mucilage from special reservoir cells located at the base of the stalk. The insect, struggling, stimulates more glands and gets stuck himself in the mucilage.

Pinguicula moranensis enjoys a humid tropical climate without direct sun but with a bright light. The culture temperature is 20 to 35°C in summer and 10 in winter to 15°C. The plant should be placed in a bright location with little exposure to direct sunlight in summer. In winter, it will appreciate the brightness of a sunny window. Although this is one of the few carnivorous plants to tolerate limestone, mainly use the rain water or demineralized water. In summer place the pot in a saucer containing 2 cm of water and above all, do not water from the top of the pot. In winter keep the soil moist. The base substrate for many species is a mixture of peat and non-calcareous sand (2V/1V). The use of fertilizers is to be avoided completely, the plant provides for his organic nutrient needs through its pitfalls.

Victoria Orchid Society

Minutes of General Meeting, May 28, 2018

The General meeting of May 28th 2018 was held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. We had three new members, Grace, Barb, and Jayne, also one guest, Sara. John asked our guest speaker, Alexey, to present the show table, with Sasha assisting.

Secretary's Report: Elsie Gerdes moved and Poul Hansen seconded that the minutes from the March General Meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report: Jill Livesey presented her financial report for the month of March, 2018, as well as the April Auction profit. She moved for acceptance, seconded by Svend Munkholm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notes:

Melanie gave a final Show Report, thanking everyone who volunteered and noted there was a significant increase in attendance this year. Also a change in advertising reduced the amount spent and using social media, Facebook, increased our exposure. The change in format for the Friday evening Gala led to an increase that saw 78 people attending. Melanie has received lots of positive feedback for the weekend event. A complete copy of her report is available.

Kathryn Collins spoke on the Society's commitment to add to the amount of money donated, to be given to the COC Orchid Conservation Fund.

MOTION: Kathryn Collins moved that another \$300 be added to the \$210 collected as a donation to the COC Orchid Conservation Fund, seconded by Sasha Kubicek.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER REPORTS:

AOS: John reported that the next judging will be on Saturday, June 9th in Vancouver.

COC: Sasha reported that the COC AGM will be held on June 10th at an out of town location and our Society can send a proxy vote if we are not able to attend. He also stated that he is still having difficulties with communications with the COC.

Library: John asked for any volunteers to replace Ian, as he will not be in this position in September. John will be accepting any books for return this evening, as Ian is away tonight. If members wish to sign out a book out for the summer, they need to renew their membership first.

Membership: Kathryn reported there are 88 members, 3 having joined this evening. She also mentioned that we recently lost a member, with the passing of Geoff Haywood.

Plant orders: Sasha reported that there will be no plants from Gold Country in June as Alan Koch has had to cancel his trip, due to health issues. Sasha is experiencing poor communications from H&R for their visit in September and is uncertain if there will be plants for sale when they come but he is certain that Wenqing Perner will bring plants in October. There will be further information coming.

Plant Sales: Coreen reported they have plants for sale tonight. Alexey also brought plants to sell.

Programs: Rod reaffirmed that Alan Koch will not be coming in June, due to Health reasons. Rod is currently organizing 'Greenhouse tours' by some of our members in July and August. Information will be sent by email, when confirmed.

Supply Sales: Catherine has supplies for sale at the back of the hall tonight, including baskets.

Website: Diana reported that Blair has updated the list of the current executives/directors on the website.

Social Media: One new member acknowledged to hearing of our Society meetings through Facebook.

New Business:

Joe Chow thanked all the volunteers who worked at the Annual Plant Auction in April.

Rod Crutcher is heading the nominating committee this year. If you want to run for an Executive/Director position, give him your name.

There is a sign-up sheet for those interested in being on next year's Spring Show Committee. Barb Davies and Leda Bower volunteered to co-chair the committee.

Program: John introduced Alexey Tretyakov, who spoke on Orchid Nutrition.

Next Meeting: June 25, 2018 at the Gordon Head Church Hall.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 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 **K, L & M** for the June 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.



Phragmipedium Joan Montmorency

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 Chair: Rodney Crutcher

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

Directors:

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



Epidendrum Joseph Lii 'Kultana'

Reminders & Opportunities

Summer Greenhouse tours: July and August – Watch for times and places.

Borrowed Books: Any books that have been borrowed from the library need to be returned by the June meeting. Proof of membership for the upcoming year (2018-2019) is required to keep borrowed books over the summer.

Librarian Wanted: Remember that we are also looking for a Librarian to replace Ian Nugent, who has filled that role for the last two years and done a great job of organizing and cataloguing our books. It is in good shape for anyone to take over, without stress.

Donation of plants for the Prize Draw table. The prize draw is an important feature of our meetings. Recently, very few people have brought in their extra divisions for this purpose. Please check your collections for plants that you could donate to the table. It makes a big difference to the meeting.

Classifieds



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June-Native Species/Conservation Corner

Photos and article by Sasha Kubicek

The time of color is coming to an end and June and July become the months of white and green. The genus *Piperia* dominates. During spring the plants come out of dormancy and produce lush green leaves. Almost looking like *Phalaenopsis* leaves on mature strong plants.

At the start of June spikes start emerging and the lush leaves start to yellow and dry out. By the time the spikes are in full bloom, there is no sign of the leaves.

Two species that can be found quite commonly in rock bluff, mossy habitats are *Piperia transversa* and *elongata*. Their Latin names give a clue in how to identify them in the field. *Transversa* has nectar spurs that almost horizontally cross the flower, while *elongata* has nectar spurs that elongate straight down the flower. To throw a wrench into the identification, I have found hybrid swarms that have characteristics of both species with angled spurs, but these are rare.



Piperia transversa



Piperia transversa

Piperia elongata



Piperia elongata

The species that has no confusion in identification is *Piperia elegans*. The most common habitat is primary coastal forest and bluffs. This is a rare habitat in Victoria as most water front property has been developed and landscaped with non-native vegetation. If you are lucky enough to find this species, it is quite the sight. Large pretty blooms densely cover the strong spike. You will be surprised how close to the ocean these orchids can grow.



Piperia elegans



Piperia elegans



Spiranthes romanzoffiana found right beside the highway..

June is also the time when people get out and enjoy the outdoors by camping and hiking in our great parks and wild spaces. When driving to your destination, pay attention to potential orchid habitats. Sometimes the smallest patch of untouched primary vegetation can hold some surprising results!

When driving to your destination try to also notice how much logging is occurring outside of these parks and wild spaces. The following picture is old growth logging that is happening right now, as this newsletter is being published, up near Port Alberni. What a loss of orchid habitat and so much more. Get involved with organizations like Ancient Forest Alliance.

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

Be a champion for the remaining wild spaces so that future generations can find and enjoy native orchids in their natural habitats.



Photo by TJ Watt- click on full story below

<https://mailchi.mp/70431c275525/breaking-news-grandest-old-growth-forests-threatened-by-bc-govt-near-record-douglas-firs-found-take-action-today?e=290b3e6b73>

What's in bloom in the Orchid Collection

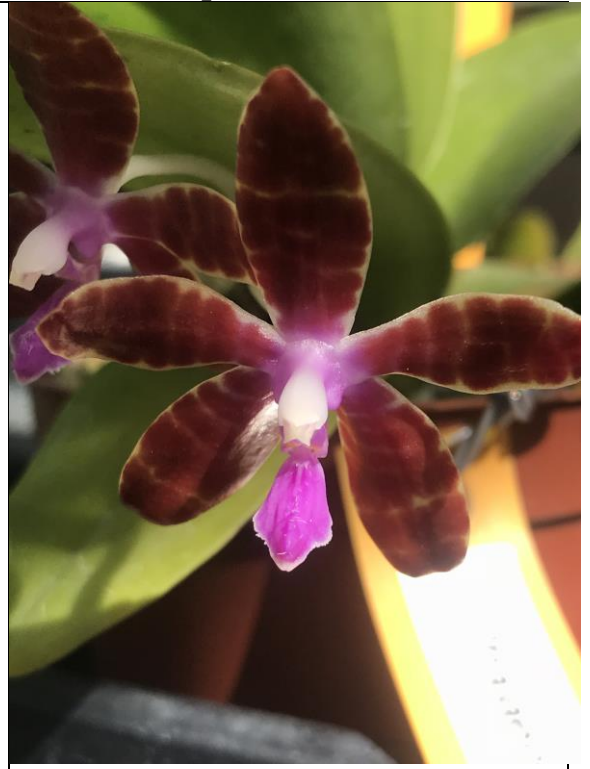
Phalaenopsis [Phal.] bastianii

It is hard to believe but this is the first *Phalaenopsis* ever featured in this column. It is commonly known as moth orchid as the flowers of some species supposedly resemble moths in flight. This an orchid genus of approximately 89 species. *Phalaenopsis* is one of the most popular orchids in the trade, through the development of many artificial hybrids. It is native to southern China, Taiwan, the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia (Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.), New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, and Queensland.

This particular species was name after the son, Bastian, of Lutz Rollke who co-authored of the description of the species in 1991.

It is found in the Sulu Archipelago of the Philippine Islands and requires intermediate to warm temperatures and regular watering throughout the year with medium to medium-bright light levels.

This plant was purchased by the OSPF from Forestview in 2016.



Gongora [Gga.] gratulabunda

Commonly known as “The Enjoyable Gongora” this species hails from both sides of the western Cordillera of Colombia. It grows as an epiphyte in wet tropical forests along the Pacific coast of Colombia at 850 to 1600 meters elevation.

The species is unique within the genus *Gongora* in that has this wonderful serpentine kink near the base of the lip. The flowers are large for a *Gongora* and widely spaced.

Rudolf Jenny states in his Monograph of the Genus *Gongora* that it is one of the rarest of the genus.

Unfortunately, how this specimen came into the collection is unknown. It is grown on the sunnier (west) side in our hot greenhouse but lower down on the rack to give it a little more shade.



Dendrobium [Den.] unicum vietnam

This plant is commonly known as “The Unique Dendrobium” and it certainly has very unique flowers.

The species is found in Northern Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam growing in evergreen, semi-deciduous and deciduous dry lowland forests and savana-like woodlands at elevations of 800 to 1550 meters on rocks and small bushes.

It is a nice miniature plant that likes to be wood mounted and needs warm conditions through the summer growth season but cool to warm and drier in the winter and spring.

The raceme that arises from near, and at, the apex of leafed and leafless canes with up to 4 fragrant flowers.

The OSPF purchased this specimen from Country Gold Orchids in April of 2017.



Oncidium [Onc.] astranthum

Originally classified as an *Odontoglossum* it was moved to the *Oncidium* genus in 2008.

Commonly known as the “Star Flowered *Odontoglossum*” it is from the southern Ecuador and Peru where it grows in upper cloud forests both as epiphytes in dense forest and as terrestrials on embankments.

It is a cold to cool growing *Oncidium* that likes bright indirect light. We grow this on the west side of our cold greenhouse.

The OSPF purchased this specimen from Ecuagenera in April 2018.



Rodriguezia [Rdza.] venusta 13223B

This is the first of the *Rodriguezia* genus to be featured in this column. The Genus consists of 53 species of epiphytic or lithophytic species in the American tropics, but with the highest concentration in Brazil. The genus is named after Manuel Rodriguez a Spanish botanist and apothecary.

They are smaller plants that produce one or more erect or arching racemes holding many flowers.

This species is commonly known as The Lovely *Rodriguezia*. It was originally discovered in Brazil growing in the upper branches of Cedrela trees near Bananal in the state of Minas Gerais. It is now known to occur in Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela and Brazil.

The OSPF purchased this specimen from Miranda Orchids in 2014. It is grown on the west side of our intermediate house mounted on cork.



Sources for all of the above are

Charles Baker

OrchidWiz

Orchid Photographic Encyclopedia

Photographs by Doug Bovee / Dave Nixon.

<http://www.theorchidcolumn.com>