



# Victoria Orchid Society

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*Dracula bella*



*No display table because of the Auction, but this Phalaenopsis Salu Spot x Timothy Christopher, is one of the lovely plants that was sold at the Auction.*

**2018 Meetings:**

**Spring**  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup>**

Members with last names starting with **G, H & J** are asked to bring goodies for the May meeting.

*From the Editor*

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Once again, our intrepid coffee lady, Lioba Samer, charged through the ranks at the TC 10K Walk.

She completed the course in 1 hour 28 minutes, 1 second, placing 4<sup>th</sup> out of 27 walkers in her class. Congratulations, Lioba!



[www.victoriaorchidsociety.com](http://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](mailto:enviroed@telus.net)).*

*Logo photo D. Rowles*



John Taylor

## President's Message

The year seems to be approaching the end—two more meetings! One of the important rituals at this time of year is the election of the executive for the coming year performed at the final meeting. However, now is the time to consider whether you want to get more actively involved. Currently there are a number of positions opening up. Our librarian, Ian Nugent, will no longer be around in the coming year. For anyone with a love of books this is an interesting job, bringing out our library each meeting and checking out the books. Not particularly stressful, though this year a stack of books disappeared off the shelf with no obvious culprit. Since they were all in a row it almost looks as if they were removed for some alternative purpose besides reading pleasure, i.e., something to step on, something to support a lamp, even up a table etc. If anyone comes across them we would like to get them back.

Outside the executive, Lioba Samer has been faithfully preparing coffee before each meeting and would like someone else to take over this job. Volunteers? Guarantees at least one free cup of coffee/meeting!

The issue of the show chair is also coming up. This is the one event of the year that would not be possible without a large number of volunteers. So keep it in mind for the first weekend in March next year.

*Spring 2018*  
*May 28 – Alexey Tretyakov –*  
*Orchid Nutrition*  
*June 25<sup>th</sup> – Alan Koch -*  
*Species Habitat and*  
*Hybrid Culture*  
*Summer barbecue*

As a student judge I am also aware of the need for more students (I am currently the only one in our group). Judges come and go, and now that we finally have our own Western Canada section, separate from the previous all-encompassing Pacific North West judging center, this would be a good time for anyone who wants to get serious about understanding the qualities that make for superior orchids, to join the program. It is intensive and from my experience so far, well worth it.

The final meetings should be very interesting with Alexey Tretyakov covering orchid nutrition next meeting and hopefully, our international speaker, Alan Koch, from Gold Country Orchids at the final meeting. Alan may be bringing plants for sale.

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.

Ingrid Ostrander will be giving the pre-meeting workshop for the May meeting on the topic of “What is an Orchid” It is such a large and varied group of plants that one cannot help but wonder how a little *Masdevallia* and a huge *Cattleya* can possess the same features. This session will be interesting even for experienced growers and fascinating for new growers.

## May 28<sup>th</sup> general meeting - Alexey Tretyakov will speak on Orchid Nutrition

Alexey has a diverse collection of orchid hybrids and species. Species and Dendrobium genus are dominant in his collection. As many amateur orchid growers, Alexey began his hobby from growing on windowsill and under lights. Today, his diverse collection (from warm to cool growing plants) is accommodated in a single greenhouse. A few years ago Alexey began to create new hybrids. His first hybrid was registered with Royal Horticultural Society (England) in 2013.

Alexey has lifelong interest in photography. Images of orchids, taken by Alexey, have been published in Orchid Societies Newsletters, AOS Bulletin and were posted at Orchids Forum.

This session on Orchid Nutrition is sure to provide some great tips on keeping your orchid collection flourishing. Alexey is known for growing orchids “outside the box”, so there are sure to be some novel and valuable ideas.

## Past Events

### April 23 meeting – VicOS Annual Auction

Our annual auction is always a great event. We had about 100 orchids on the block, managed by our expert auctioneer, Bryan Emery, and about 50 bidders for the plants. There were some lovely plants and some great bargains.



*Auctioneer Extraordinaire*



*A great event! Many thanks to Joe and all the volunteers.*

## 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 April 6, 2018, the following AOS award was granted:

*Phalaenopsis amboinensis* 'Sarah' HCC/AOS 78pts

Exhibitor: Ben Rostron



At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's judging at the Orchid Society of Alberta Show on April 6, 2018, the following AOS awards were granted:

Silver Certificate (display) 'Life's Next Level' SC/AOS 85pts

Exhibitor: Paul Paludet



Show Trophy (display) 'Life's Next Level' ST/AOS 85pts

Exhibitor: Paul Paludet

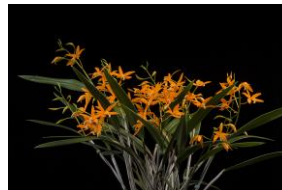
*Masdevallia* Bay Breeze 'Royal Velvet' AM/AOS 81pts  
(*Masdevallia Fraseri* x *Masdevallia John Tomaschke*)

Exhibitor: Paul Paludet



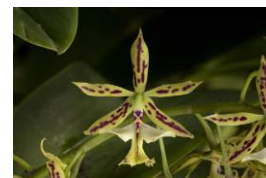
*Cattleya harpophylla* 'Orange Obsession' CCM/AOS 84pts

Exhibitor: Darrell Albert



*Cattleya harpophylla* 'Orange Obsession' AM/AOS 84pts

Exhibitor: Darrell Albert



*Epidendrum stamfordianum* 'Too Cool' CCM/AOS 84pts

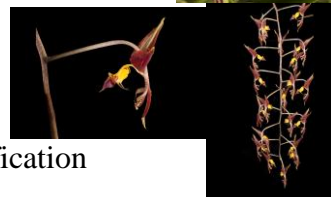
Exhibitor: Darrell Albert



*Gongora rufescens* 'Charlotte' AM/AOS 82pts

Exhibitor: Terry Letendre

\* award provisional pending species identification



*Oncidium leave* 'Drury' CCM/AOS 81pts (20187075)

Exhibitor: Orchid Species Preservation Foundation



*Paphiopedilum* Shimizu Delight ‘Angeline’ HCC/AOS 76pts  
(*Paphiopedilum* Double Bell x *Paphiopedilum godefroyae*)  
Exhibitor: Bob Lucas



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, [asalleh@telus.net](mailto:asalleh@telus.net))  
Next monthly meeting:

*AOS awards photos by Judith Higham*  
*Show Trophy photos by Ed Higham*

- June 9, 2018 : (following WCJC business meeting) 1:00pm at Sea Island Community Centre, [7140 Miller Road, Richmond, BC V7B 1L4](#)

### ***Geoff Haywood, valued member of the Society***

Geoff Haywood’s orchid collection was included in the VicOS Annual Auction on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the money raised will be put into a bursary for a Camosun College student. A lovely service for Geoff that was held by his family on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Among the attendees were eight VicOS members.

The few remaining items from Geoff’s collection, including both plants and equipment with be available to purchase on the monthly sales table at the May meeting.

Seven plants remain for sale: three *Cattleya* hybrids, two *Angraecums*, one named *Phalaenopsis*, and a *Paphiopedilum. gratrixianum*.

Also available for sale will be an assortment of timers, cords, fans and transformers, and other “grow – related” odds and ends. Geoffrey’s home built light reflectors will be FREE, as is. His few books will be donated to the club library.

***Geoff frequently gave basic workshops at GardenWorks, helping participants to care for their new orchids.***



## May-Native Species/Conservation Corner

Photos and article by Sasha Kubicek

I hope some of you were able to get out into the forests and find *Calypso bulbosa* var. *occidentalis* in the wild. The first week of May is peak flowering time. If you miss this window, higher up in the hills of our Island the snow is still melting and some Calypsos have not even started to spike yet. I have found some in bloom as late as July!



*Corallorhiza maculata* snaking out of the ground

The rest of May belongs to the Coral Root Orchids. The genus name is *Corallorhiza*. This group of orchids don't have leaves and do not photosynthesize. They fall in the group of plants called Myco-heterotrophs. These plants parasitize the mycelium of the fungal network that lies under the soil of intact forests. Because these plants don't photosynthesize, they can grow in very shady parts of a forest. At the start of May, the new shoots come out of the ground like snake creatures.

The first species to bloom is *Corallorhiza striata*. I find these are always associated with Red Cedars growing in quite low light levels. They are the largest flowering and showiest of the Coral Roots.



*Calypso bulbosa* var. *occidentalis*



*Corallorhiza striata*

The second species to bloom, *Corallorrhiza maculata*, is our most common and wide spread Coral Root species. It is tolerant of many light levels ranging from total shade to dappled light. Mature plants can form very spectacular clumps when in bloom. There is also a rare pure yellow form.



*Corallorrhiza maculata*



*Corallorrhiza maculata aurea*

The later species is *Corallorrhiza mertensiana*. This is a very variable colored species with vivid pink purple flowers to almost white.



*Corallorrhiza mertensiana*



*Corallorrhiza mertensiana*

May is also a good time of year to notice the invasive species that plague many of our parks and wild spaces. A great website with loads of information and ways to get involved in your area is <https://bcinvasives.ca> I find the following four invasive species are the worst offenders of destroying native orchid habitat.



**Scotch Broom** is a member of the legume family and as a result actually changes the pH of the soil in which it grows. This alters the entire ecology of the area, killing off local species and encouraging more of the broom. This invasive is best cut right at ground level as any disturbing of the ground will just allow seeds to flourish. You do not want to disturb the ground with this one.

**English Holly** has a very aggressive root system, which out competes local plants for water. Once established, the waxy dark leaves form a dense bush that blocks out all sunlight, killing any native flora. The bright red berries are loved by birds and are easily dispersed throughout a forest quickly multiplying the problem. These can become small trees so it is much easier removing them while they are young.



**Daphne/Spurge Laurel** is not just destroying native plant habitat, its berries and sap are poisonous to people and pets. Birds are immune and they unfortunately spread the seeds. The sap is quite caustic so rubber gloves and eye protection are mandatory when handling this plant. In the forests this plant quickly out competes other plants by shading them out with its lush dark foliage.

**English Ivy** can be the hardest plant to remove once established. This creeping ground cover can smother out everything in its path. Be very careful in disposing of this plant as even a small piece can re-root itself and start the problem all over again in a new location.



Learning about our native orchids is a great way to connect to our ecosystem and to become an advocate for its preservation

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

As the Annual Auction was held at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, there was no business meeting and no minutes were taken.

**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 **G, H & J** for the May meeting.

The Victoria Orchid Society Newsletter is published monthly, around the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We will elect the Officers Directors for the 2018-2019 year at that time. If you would like to become a member of the Executive for next year, please contact Rod Crutcher. Fresh input and ideas are always welcome.

### VicOS Summer Barbecue

Brian and Chris have, once again, kindly offered to host the summer barbecue in their beautiful garden. This will probably occur toward the end of July so watch for the official notification.

**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.

## Classifieds



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