VicOS News

The Official Newsletter of the Victoria Orchid Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Leda Bower

I find the Fall as a time for Reflection and planning at my house because I have such a large garden to maintain and also the Conservatory full of Orchids, not that I wouldn't add one more. I am also spending a great deal of my time reflecting on the continuance of the Club and the promotion of the four directives with which it was formed. The future could look a lot better if we concentrated on those directives, alliances with the different clubs in our Region could help them and us. I feel something has been lost when we lose a club; there are no longer volunteers to step forward and there are no new membership because really the link is obvious. (continued next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov 16: AOS Western Canada Judging Centre meeting at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

Nov 25: November General Meeting with guest Alexey Tretyakov presenting "Orchid Nutrition"

Refreshments: If your last name begins with D, E, or F, we kindly request that you bring a snack to share for the November meeting - Thank you

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Con't)

I feel fortunate, on the Executive this year I have several members who represent different backgrounds of experience and also with that come values that we can use in building a team to overcome the Challenges that we face. We will have challenges, we are all different this year and will discover new paths to do the jobs and positions that we have inherited. I still have positions I have not filled, a Treasurer and a Programme Director (I spent some time at the Fraser Valley show talking to others about next years speakers, I'm trying to establish communication from within our region and Jill has done a great job as Treasurer and I would like to relieve her of that duty. She has been a great bridge for the New Executive from the Past Executive.

I took the Job as President on because I saw an opportunity to move forward with my "small" agenda, Conservation, and with that all importantly the growth of the Club, membership who embrace that even though we are small, we are experienced. We can start identifying areas locally to tend and we can educate and provide opportunities to be part of projects that succeed. It's a very exciting and worrisome time with all environments at this moment.

I talked about sending someone from the Club to World Orchid Conference and that will go forward, I chatted to Dave Nixon and there's a lot of emphasis on Conservation this year in all areas of the Globe. I will keep you updated on the Rep. for our club and there will be specifics for that choice and an expectation to report back to the Club.

I want to say that I appreciate the support I've received from the Club members since I took the position but I will make mistakes because I'm new to the job and I'm trying to get the handle on the procedure and various Committees, thank you for your understanding, Leda



A VERY SPECIAL AWARD - CONGRATULATIONS, RICK!

The 2018 Fall AOS Members Meeting was held in October, 2019. At this event, the AOS Special Annual Awards were granted. We are delighted that Victoria Orchid Society's Rick R.'s Masdevallia Confetti 'Spikenard' CCE/AOS is the first recipient of the Mario and Conni Ferrusi Award! (The award was established in 2018)



The Mario and Conni Ferrusi Award is given to the grower of the orchid plant regarded as the most outstanding example of Masdevallia, Dracula, or Dracuvallia, awarded during the preceding calendar year. A plant may be simultaneously eligible for the both the Ferrusi and the Luer Awards; however the plant may not win more than one of these awards. The Award was established in 2018 and endowed by donations to honor Mario and Conni Ferrusi, avid orchid growers and exhibitors, and among the truly great ambassadors for the hobby.

(Photo Courtesy of Judith Higham)

GENERAL MEETINGS FOR 2019/2020:

November 25

December 9 - Member Christmas Party

January 27

February 24

March 23

April 27

May 25

June 22 - AGM

Meetings are held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall at 4201 Tyndall Ave.

Meetings begin at 7:30 and open to VicOS members and guests. Visitors are always welcome.

Newsletter contributions are always encouraged (photos, tips, tricks, information or insights)
Please submit to Melanie at melroga@telus.net

FRASER VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE OCT 25 - 27

By Melanie Norris and Don Mills



The Fraser Valley Orchid Show, 2019 was a memorable event for all who were able to attend.

Don and Marilyn braved the weather on Friday to successfully set up the lovely Victoria Orchid Society display. The display contained a great variety of plants by many growers – thank you to all who contributed and thank you to Don and Marilyn for the time and care in setting up!

Friday soon became a difficult day for those attempting to attend the ribbon judging from the Island. A wind storm caused the cancellation of most ferry sailings that day and several members were disappointed as they were unable to attend the event. At the venue however, Don and Marilyn attended the buffet reception for the first time, and enjoyed the excellent food and conversations.

Beautiful weather prevailed on Saturday and Sunday and attendance was very good. The following vendors kept visitors busy: Forestview Gardens, Tropical Gardens, Paramount Orchids, Willgro, Orchid Species Preservation Foundation, and the FVOS Members' Plant Sales Table.

Overall, the VicOS did very well and several awards were received:

The show Grand Champion was awarded to Svend M for his stunning Blc. Ingeborg 'Cowichan Gold' HCC/AOS.

(As pictured below - Photo courtesy of Rebecca Lowry)



FRASER VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE (CONT)

Best in class ribbons were awarded to:

Cat F. - Aerangis Hsinying Ramosa

Toni D. - Lc Red Viking 'Tania's Own' HCC/AOS

Don and Marilyn M. - Paph wardii (New Jersey x Gothic) AM/AOS

In total, the VicOS received 13 first place ribbons, 5 seconds and 6 thirds.

Congratulations to all who participated! We will update the blog when we receive the results from the AOS judging from the show.















AOS JUDGING RESULTS - OCT 26

By Abu Salleh (All Photos Courtesy of Judith Higham)

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center at the Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show on October 26, 2019, the following AOS award was granted (please note that all awards are considered provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchids Plus):



1. Paphiopedilum charlesworthii f. sandowiae x sib 'Coy' HCC/AOS 77pts Exhibitor: Tropical Gardens Orchids | Calvin Wong

2. Phragmipedium fischeri 'Teggin' HCC/AOS 78pts Exhibitor: Sandy Larson

3. Cattleya Timely 'Paramount's Just In Time' AM/AOS 80pts (Cattleya Haidee x Cattleya Sabina (1941)) Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids

4. Zygoneria 'Paramount's Oceanside Vortex'
HCC/AOS 76pts
(Zygoneria Adelaide Meadows x Zygopetalum Helen Ku)
* award provisional pending hybrid registration
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchidstext









BOOK REVIEW

By Don Mills

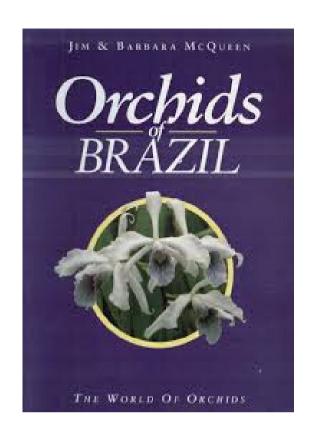
Authors: Jim & Barbara McQueen

Orchids of Brazil

Published by Timber Press, 1993

The authors have spent a great deal of traveling, growing, and researching to produce this book. The first 42 pages are an introduction to the country Brazil and its diverse regions where these orchid species live. Classification of the various genus is well laid out in easy to read chart form. Having seen and grown most of the listed genus , the authors have published a very good reference book for its age.

Each orchid species shown has description, cross reference (other mistaken names), location and growth habits. A good book for the adventuresome grower who wants to try the tiny Barbosella miersii to the giant Cattleya warneri.





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to take on a rewarding position within the Society, we currently have vacancies:

- 1. Christmas Party Co-ordinator: If you love spreading Christmas cheer, we are looking for someone to co-ordinate the Christmas festivities leading up to the December 9th potluck. Astrid has volunteered to organize the food so this job will involve taking care of the other details (Dispaly table, table decorations, games and ticket sales etc)
- 2. Treasurer
- 3. **Speaker Co-ordinator**: Much of the work has been completed by Sasha and Rod, but there are 4 meetings that require a speaker. A nice way to meet expert orchid growers and get to know other society members

Email: info@victoriaorchidsociety.com

MINUTES FOR THE VICTORIA ORCHID SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - OCT 21, 2019

The general meeting of October 21st, 2019 was held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall, and was well attended by our members, despite the change of date. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Justin Dunning at 7:30 pm.

Reports

Prior to the meeting, a meeting package was sent out so that members could review the business reports ahead of time, expediting this part of the meeting. The meeting package contained all of the relevant reports including financial, membership, communication committee, motions carried from the September Meeting, and an advertisement recruiting for the annual orchid show and sale. President Leda Bower then asked the members present if they had seen and read it. When the membership had agreed that they had seen and read the reports, Leda asked for them to be moved as read, in the order that they were presented in the meeting package.

A motion was made by Lee to move that minutes from the last meeting were approved as read. Astrid seconded this motion, which was carried.

A motion was made by Justin that the treasurer's report be accepted as read, which was seconded by John and carried. There were a few questions about the financial report, which Jill answered as they came up.

Justin gave a quick update about the communication committee. Sarah had committed some time to phase one of updating the website, and he encouraged everyone to have a look at it

(www.victoriaorchidsociety.com). Sarah encourages members to submit their orchid

photos with a caption including some information about the image to her if they would like them to be included on the website, either in the Member's photo corner, a new feature, or in other areas of the website (info@victoriaorchidsociety.com,

Re: Member Photos).

Announcements

It was announced that John has reached associate status at the judging center. Another exciting announcement is that Dave Nixon is going to the World Orchid Congress, and is willing to mentor a member who would like to go to the event as well. Leda asked the members to contact her if they were interested in this opportunity, and suggested it would be helpful if the individual has some familiarity with international conferences.

The Orchid Show and Sale is coming up in March/April, and volunteers are needed. The society is also looking for a member to take the role of COC representative, so anyone interested in volunteering or acting as the COC representative is also encouraged to contact Leda.

Program

Following reports and announcements, Dr. Leslie Ee was invited to talk about the show table. After a short coffee break, Sasha introduced Dr. Leslie Ee, the president of the Canadian Orchid Congress, to give his talk about Dendrobium cuthbertsonii. It was a very engaging discussion, and covered many aspects of their growth and culture. He talked about their origin in Papua New Guinea, their range and habitat, and their evolution as rhododendron mimics to attract sunbirds and honeyeaters as pollinators. He then talked about their culture and hybridization. A very interesting component of how he cultures them involved a wine-cooler converted into a cold chamber, and his was full of beautiful blooming plants from top to bottom. Overall, it was an informative and instructive talk about these beautiful plants.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Lane

NOVEMBER MEETING:



THE VICTORIA ORCHID SOCIETY IS
PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR
SPECIAL GUEST

ALEXEY TRETYAKOV

TOPIC: "Orchid Nutrition"

November 25 - 7:30 p.m. Gordon Head United Church Hall 4201 Tyndall Ave.

- · Display table of member's orchids
- · A variety of orchids for sale
- Potting mix and fertilizer for sale

It's hard to believe this is the final VicOS Newsletter of the year. On behalf of the VicOS Executive Council, we wish you (and your plants) a very happy and healthy festive season. We hope to see you at the Christmas Potluck and again in 2020!

