



# Victoria Orchid Society

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*April 2023 Newsletter*

## **Next Monthly Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 19 – 6:30 pm  
*Eastern Star Hall, 3291 Harriet Rd*

The next meeting will be an in-person meeting and we have a guest speaker, Sarah Hurdel. She is the owner of Needmore Orchids, an artist, orchid blogger, exhibitor and accredited AOS judge. She maintains a collection of well over 600 orchids under lights in her basement, including a large number of Habenaria species and hybrids. Even without a greenhouse, her plants and exhibits have received AOS award recognition for culture, flower quality, and design. She enjoys sharing her orchid obsession with others through in-person and virtual presentations to societies across the US and Canada. Sarah currently has two blog pages featuring her orchid photography and cultural information – Something About Orchids on Facebook and Blogspot.

Sarah will introduce us to Layer Cake Potting, a method for maintaining consistent moisture in the pot, from the top to bottom – even in low humidity. She will explain how to adapt these techniques to different Genera and conditions, and also share ways to reduce the work of maintaining a diverse collection indoors.



Sarah Hurdel, Instagram: @needmore\_orchids

## **President's Message**

Hi to everyone,

Spring is making its appearance and I feel very busy as I'm sure the rest of you are. There is a lot to do in the coming months as we will be setting up dates for Open Houses including, I'm hoping, rooms inside of houses equipped to grow these special plants. I heard in one of the Presentations that I've given to Garden clubs that "sure it is easy to grow inside of Greenhouses " but that is untrue. It doesn't matter where you grow as long as you have control over your conditions, a Greenhouse comes with different challenges, just different than growing in a house. I know more than a couple of members who grow in house environments, and I will be contacting those members to get them to share this knowledge.

I've had some concerns voiced by some about the lack of a Show this year. As you know, we have lost some of the membership since and during the Pandemic. This in particular means fewer volunteers. For instance, we requested Volunteers to take down the Display in Nanaimo and no one with transportation stepped forward. This required Bryan who was selling at the show to help a non-member pack up the plants. To support the last VicOS Annual Show we required over 30 volunteers to fulfill the various tasks in preparation and supporting the show.

We have also lost Vendors willing to Ferry plants to our Shows; we are down to Paramount Orchids, mid-Island. The sale of orchids at the Show is an integral part of our revenue, leading to the issue of how to supply them. The Executive has been grappling with these concerns, and we have decided to move forward with a display and sale on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Brentwood Bay Nursery (Stay tuned for the rest of the details on this).

It would be great also to plan a get-together for a Barbeque to celebrate our 50th anniversary during the summer and celebrate that we can actually meet together. Thank you so much, and remember this is your Club as well as mine or the Executive so if you have some ideas you would like to add I'd appreciate the input, enjoy the Spring season.

**Leda Bower**

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## Other Upcoming Events:

### Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Spring Show and Sale

Friday, April 21, 1 pm - 8 pm  
Saturday, April 22, 9 am - 3 pm  
**Lambrick Park Church, 1780 Feltham Road**

### The Victoria Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale

Friday, May 12, 11 am - 5 pm  
Saturday, May 13, 10 am - 4 pm  
**510 Mount View Ave, Colwood**

## Plantaholics

### Plant Sale

Saturday, June 3, 10 am - 4 pm  
**1395 Benvenuto Ave, Brentwood Bay**

# ORCHID SHOW & SALE

FLORAL HALL, VANDUSEN GARDEN

5251 OAK STREET, VANCOUVER



APRIL 22 - 25

Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

ADMISSION:

\$8 Adults / or \$10 • 2 Day pass

\$6 Students & Seniors / or \$9 • 2 Day Pass



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## AOS Western Canada Judging Center and January Judging Results

*Masdevallia superbiens* 'Kittiwake'  
CCE/AOS — 90pts (20237150)  
Exhibitor: Leda Bowe

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging on January 21, 2023, the following AOS awards were granted:  
Photographer: Bryan Emery



*Cymbidium Enzan New Leaves* 'Glory of Hong Kong'  
AM/AOS — 80pts (20237151)  
Exhibitor: Daniel Kwok



## CVIOS Show and February Judging Results

*Paphiopedilum tranlienianum*  
HCC/AOS — 78pts (20237152)  
Exhibitor: Vivien Chung

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show judging on February 17, 2023, the following AOS awards were granted:  
Photographer: Alexey Tretyakov



*Stelis aurea*  
CCM/AOS — 88pts (20237153)  
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids



## Show Trophy 'Orchid's Symphony'

ST/AOS 84pts (20237154)

Exhibitor: — Vancouver Orchid Society



### May Meeting:

Wednesday, May 17 — 6:30 pm  
*Eastern Star Hall, 3291 Harriet Rd*

This very exciting meeting will be a must attend event! We are ecstatic to present world renowned Jason Fischer. Jason has lectured for over 50 different orchid societies all across the world including US, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. He has also presented at prestigious events such as the 7th New Zealand National Orchid Expo 2013, 19th Australian Orchid Council Conference 2012, Perth, 19th & 20th World Orchid Conferences in Miami & Singapore. Jason coordinated the Orchids Limited laboratory for 1998 to 2000 and is currently managing, breeding and marketing for Orchids Limited. Having created zoom classes and tutorials based on various orchid subjects this event will be crucially educational.

### Extended Biography for Jason Fischer

Jason Fischer helps manage Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota USA with his father Jerry Fischer. Orchids Ltd. opened in 1978. Orchids Ltd. is a mid-sized operation of 4 greenhouses with 15,000 square feet of growing space, an outdoor seasonal shade house, and laboratory located in Plymouth, MN.

Jason has had a life-long education in orchids mainly from the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. Jason's educational interests were strongly influenced by Japan. He studied the Japanese language and culture for 6 years in high school and at the University of Minnesota. Jason lived in Kyoto, Japan from 2001 to 2003, and upon return decided to import Japanese orchid species and add a new niche to the business.

Having worked for his father since the age of 5, Jason has learned the orchid world from the business and hobbyists perspective. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with phalaenopsis, which later on lead to paphs, phrags and miscellaneous hybrids.

Jason began presenting lectures in 2004, and has travelled internationally to give various presentations. His orchid interests are Phragmipedium, Paphiopedilum, Stanhopeinae, Neofinetia and East Asian species. Jason has interest in hybridizing orchids for commercial popularity, no matter what the genus is.

He also has interests in overall culture and finding ways to improve performance of orchid production.



## Pest Control with Beneficial Insects

In our recent presentation on pest control, there was mention of beneficial insects. While it is true that they don't tend to fully resolve an active infestation, they can be useful as a tool to reduce the pest insect population. A few that I have been using for the past few years are Aphidoletes for Aphids, Cucumeris for Thrips and Mites, and Stratiolaelaps for Thrips and Mites.



*Aphidoletes* sp., wikipedia commons

Aphidoletes are small midges with a larval stage that eats aphids. In greenhouses, they can be wonderful for searching out small pockets of aphids and stopping them from spreading. I find the far more effective method for using them is in the garden. They are released at dusk to fly around and search out aphids. They seem to eat any type including the slightly waxy black aphids that our other predators do not touch. Within 24 hours their eggs hatch and they start eating or killing hundreds of aphids a day. This reduction in the population reduces the chances of the aphids coming into your grow space or greenhouse. I have been applying them yearly, though they are said to last around 5 years in the environment before their population declines. As an added benefit, things like honeysuckle will not have flowers dripping in aphids, and the pavement under ornamental trees will not be sticky with honeydew.



*Neoseiulus cucumeris*, wikipedia commons

Cucumeris mites are a great Thrips predator, eating the Thrips just as they hatch. They also will eat many different mites. I use them in little slow-release packets that clip onto plants. Over 6 weeks or so, a steady stream of predatory mites emerge from the packets and find pests to consume. I find these are most helpful in gardens, where they can be put on pest-prone plants to reduce the burden and decrease the potential for pests to move in.



*Stratiolaelaps*, USDA, public domain

Stratiolaelaps are a generalist soil mite. They consume Thrips pupae, spider mite, Fungus gnat larvae, and weevil grubs. They come in a bag of bran and can be spread around your collection, greenhouse, garden, and even on light carts etc. I have seen a significant improvement in spider mites in my garden and therefore greenhouse since applying them. I have also found that an application of them to thin-leaved orchids like *Catasetum* and *Lycaste* can reduce or eliminate spider mite problems in the heat of the summer.

In short, while beneficial insects may not solve an active pest problem, I have definitely seen an overall reduction in the environmental pest burden from their use. I have also used a number of the other available beneficials for things like Whitefly and other mites with great success. I do have an account with a supplier if anyone would like to order beneficials to try. Please contact me for more information.

**Bryan**