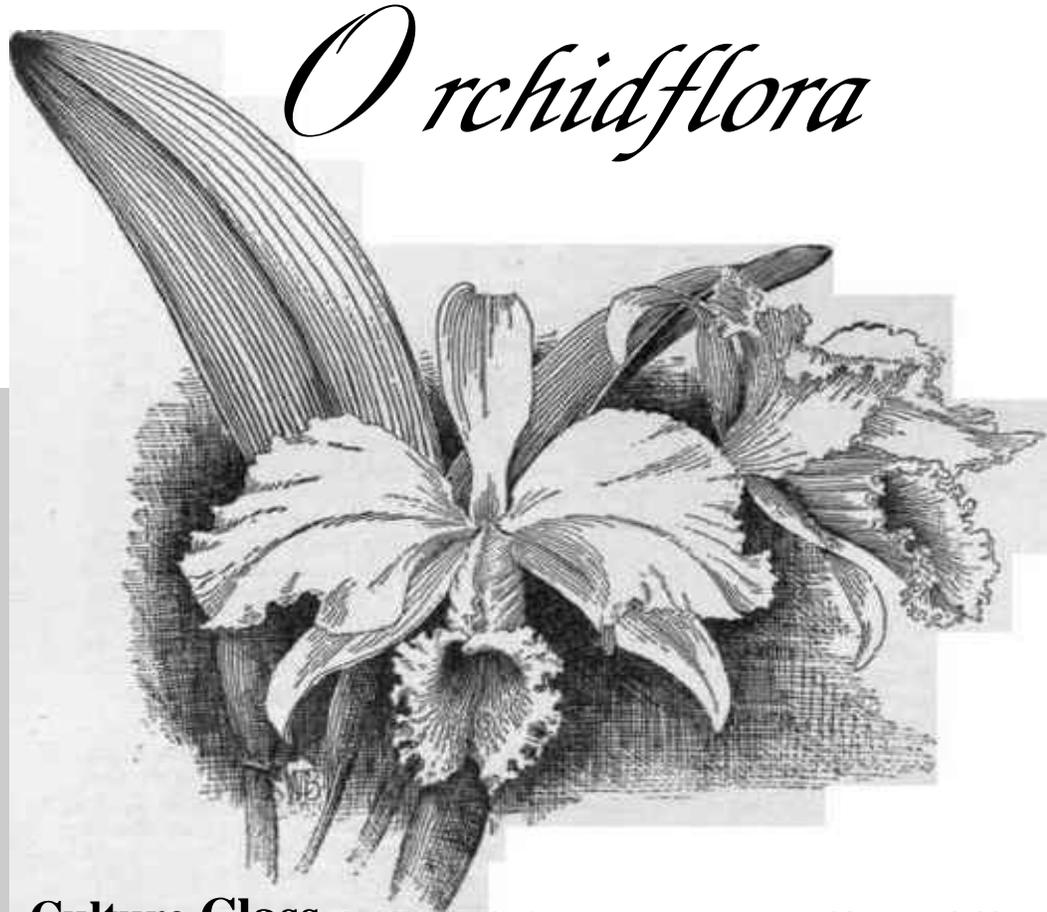


Volume 3 , Issue 8

May 2013

Educating, growing &
embracing the joy of
orchids for
68 Years



Orchidflora

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Please send your contributions to:

neesabelle@hotmail.com

www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca

Culture Class held in the Cedar room, VanDusen, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm May 13: How to choose your orchids and build your collection June 10: Deflasking orchids with Bev Hansen demonstrating; everyone should get a baby orchid to take home (while supplies last)

Upcoming Meeting : May 22, 2013

Speaker: Travis Brown from Harvest Development, on T5 lighting

Bloedel Conservatory display of orchids May 24, 25, 26

We are holding a 3 day display of orchids within the Bloedel Conservatory. We need you to loan your orchids! Pick up of orchids will be at the monthly meeting (May 22), set up will be Thursday May 23. Volunteers needed for Saturday and Sunday. Take down Monday March 27.

Did you know? Since Bloedel Conservatory has been integrated with VanDusen Gardens, an annual membership at the latter garden entitles you to entry at Bloedel - perfect for those rainy days, or those days where you crave an exotic escape ...

**Monthly General Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month
(except July, August & December) at Van Dusen Floral Hall
Doors Open 6:30pm, Meeting starts at 7:30pm**

Message from the President

Dear orchid fanciers,

Well spring is upon us, and with all the sunshine in Vancouver (yes, even Vancouver!) and the longer days, many orchids have sprouted new baby roots and new baby pseudobulbs. This is the best time to repot those orchids, while the roots are short and are not so easily broken. And remember to write down that repotting date on your plant tag - amazing how easily we forget when we last repotted something.

Even the orchids in inert media sometimes need repotting - the roots are climbing out of the pot, and the plant needs to be repositioned to allow the new growth to be in the pot. If the inert media (clay pellets, lava rock, etc) has not had too much fertilizer stick to the surface, it can be reused. I wash the media, I get rid of the old roots that are rotted and any algae, I clean up the orchid (trim old flowers stalks, old sheaths, back bulbs that don't look so good) and its potand voila - an orchid in fresh media, ready to begin growth again. Always a satisfying moment, with the dream of new flowers floating in my head.

I was one of the numerous volunteers at the Orchid Section for the annual VanDusen Plant Sale on Sunday April 28 (we were blessed with great weather). Gail Pearce, a VOS member had organized the purchase of orchids from various sources, and judging by the sales pattern, she did a spectacular job! By the time I arrived for my 11:30 pm shift, I estimate that 60% or more of the orchids had been sold. By the time I left at 2 pm, there were barely 20 orchids left. By 3 pm, they were all gone.

In other words, orchids remain very popular as a plant purchase. The most frequent comment, of course, was that people found them hard plants to keep alive and / or rebloom (mainly the Phalaenopsis). Advice was given out to those who inquired, and we can only hope that success with Phalaenopsis will lead plant fanciers to revisit their prejudice that orchids are hard plants. As I am fond of saying: "Orchids are just like people - give them what they need, and they will blossom". An understanding of where a species grows naturally and what that habitat offers gives a valuable clue to what you need to offer your orchid in order for it to thrive. Importantly, modern hybridization has made most commercial orchid hybrids easier to grow in the home environment.

In this vein, remember that culture class is your opportunity to ask questions about your orchids, and how to grow them (or what is wrong with my orchid?). Our next culture class on May 13 (Monday, Cedar room, 6:30 - 8:30), will cover how to choose your orchids and build your collection. I will be sharing on what I have learned over the years (I am only in my first decade of orchid mania). I am sure that other experienced members will add their insights also. Again, all questions, on any topic, are welcome.

In closing, please remember that we are putting up a display of orchids in Bloedel Conservatory on May 24, 25, & 26. We need your orchids to make this a show stopper. I still need volunteers for Saturday shifts (11 am, 1 pm) and Sunday afternoon (1 pm)- thank you to the 3 members who have already volunteered! Happy growing - Margaret Prat

Show committee update....

The 2013 show committee met for a post mortem on the past show. The results from the survey were given to the committee members - thank you to all members (and non members) that took the time to give us feedback. We have taken note of what you liked and what you think could be improved.

It was comforting to see that the overall rating for the show was good to excellent. The show atmosphere was seen as friendly and welcoming.

A lot of visitors noted that the venue was not as spacious as other shows. This is true. But VanDusen's rates of rental for a horticultural club are a preferential rate that will be very hard to match in any other commercial setting. Although the space is not ideal (the separation of the sales area between the Floral Hall and the Cedar room leaves a lot to be desired), the VanDusen setting is a natural fit for our society. As an added advantage, VanDusen advertises our Orchid show on their billboard at no additional cost to us. I invite VOS members who believe we should be in a larger space to strike a committee to look for a different location for 2015. The proposed venue must have ample parking, adequate floor space, a fairly central location, and must be able to be secured at night. And, of course, a reasonable rent.

Although making money is not the only objective of putting on the VOS show, our profits from the show finance the activities of the society for the rest of the year. Membership dues only cover the rental of the hall for the year. All other expenses such as speakers, displays at other orchid shows, p.o. box rental, storage rental, etc. come from the monies raised through the raffles, the summer sale, and the annual orchid show. We are indebted to our cadre of volunteers that help organize these fundraisers, as they allow membership dues to remain reasonable.

Note that the Annual Orchid Show is our opportunity to show the public how wonderful and exciting orchid flowers are. It is also an occasion to meet vendors and buy something exotic. Last, but not least, it is a chance to meet the public and invite them to try out our society. We can improve in all areas, even if we did get an overall positive review.

If you have an interest in improving the Show, please volunteer to be on the Show committee.

Just email <margaretprat@shaw.ca>

On Saturday May 4, we had very successful trip to Saltspring Island to visit Fraser Thimble Farms. VOS members -Marina Lok, Eric Nilsen, Pim Meyer, Margaret Prat, Jennifer Fabre, Stella Li (plus Sam and Herve, the accompanying husbands) went on a day outing to this remote Farm at the Northern Tip of Saltspring Island. This nursery offers many hardy orchids, of which many coveted hybrid *Cypripediums*. It was an enjoyable outing for all concerned, and the weather was perfect to be sailing across to a Gulf Island. And of course, we came back with new orchids entrusted in our care. The Vancouver Orchid Society will have many new members growing *Cypripediums* - we all hope to see these beauties in our gardens or on the show table in the years to come!

Fraser Thimble Farms had hundreds of orchids. Erik, Jennifer and Pim looking at what they are going to buy



Shopping makes you hungry. A lovely meal at the Rock Point Cafe at Fulford Harbour, while waiting for the ferry back to Victoria. Erik, Pim, Marina and Stella ordering their food.

The checkout counter looked lovely with all those orchids! This is when reality hits the pocketbook

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Show



Vancouver
Display at the
Central
Vancouver Island
Orchid Show
April 2013



Featured Above:

RESERVE CHAMPION and 3.1-3.7

Best Pleurothallis & AOS CHM *Stelis purpureum*,
Bryan Emery, CVIOS

Featured Right :

BEST IN SHOW and 4.12-4.15 Best Other Cypripedium
Subtribe

Phrag Sunset Glow, Shelley Rattink, CVIOS



Photographs by Judith E. Higham

Monthly Show Table



Plant Culture, *Dendrobium anosum*

Grower: Patrick Milligen

Photographs by Judith E. Higham

If you would like a picture of your plant,

please email Judy,

she will gladly email you the file Higham@shaw.ca



Display, *Pleione Buckleberry*

Grower: Jennifer Fabre



Flower Quality, *Cattleya walkeriana* (hybrid)

Grower: Daniel Kwok





Flower Quality, Phal cornu-cervi 'Red'
Grower: Daniel Kwok



Plant Culture, Dend. Nora tokanaga
Grower: Melanie Gallacher



Plant Culture, Dendrobium chrysotoxum
Grower: Rob Elvidge



Plant Culture, Sarco Cherie Anastasia
HCC/AOS Grower: Carla Bischoff



CVIOS SHOW, APRIL 12-14, 2013

We had another very successful display at the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show held April 12 to 14th in Nanaimo. Keith Willett and Erik Nilsen took the plants over and did the setup on Thursday; the table looked great. Our 28 plants won 14 ribbons – and we had two AOS nominations! Don Harquail received a nomination for his *Pleurothallis dilemma* and Margaret Prat got one for her *Cynorkis calanthoides*. Congratulations to these growers.

The CVIOS was very pleased both with attendance at the show and the amount of interest shown by viewers. Thanks to everyone who sent plants; we couldn't do these shows without you. And thanks to Don Harquail for gathering and redistributing the plants for the show.

Susan Brandl



Library News - by Barbara Cable

THINGS I LEARNED IN THE LIBRARY – MAY 2013

Orchids Bulletin April 2013

PICTURES! AOS 1st Class Certificates if 2012 & Special Judging Certificates of 2011.

SIZE COUNTS – how to correctly measure your bloom for judging.



MINATURE ORCHIDS TO GROW & SHOW – J. Kramer & R. L. Crafton

A handy book for those intrigued by the tiny jewels of the orchid kingdom & those who are just space challenged. This book has more than 100 orchids that will fit in small spaces along with descriptions, care & ideas for display.

All VOS members please take advantage of your library, there are a lot of great books in our collection.

Neofinetia falcata is an easily grown orchid. In nature it grows on trees or sometimes rocks, and is termed *epiphytic* in habit (literally meaning “a plant growing on the outside of something”). Therefore, they cannot tolerate being planted in soil, but instead require other composts that remain airy and do not break down quickly. They also are very resistant to cold in winter compared to most other epiphytic orchids. They do need a true cool winter rest to flower and grow correctly, but just as important is a long, warm, and moist summer season. *Fuukiran*, being special forms of *N. falcata*, respond to the same basic conditions as the typical wild form of the species.

Let’s start with proper planting. The wild forms of *Neofinetia falcata*, known as *fuuran* in Japanese, can be grown like they are in nature, that is, mounted to outside trees in appropriate climates or onto tree fern plaques, any nontoxic wood, or for that matter onto rough stone such as pumice. I grow large ones on inverted clay flower pots very successfully. They can also be grown like their tropical relatives such as *Vanda* and *Ascocentrum*, in clay pots or baskets with little compost. Some people grow them in a typical orchid bark and perlite mix with reasonable success. As long as the growing medium isn’t allowed to break down too much or stay continually wet, thus insuring healthy roots, they will grow fine using any of these methods.



Fuukiran, being of such high value, are usually handled with more care, especially in Japan, but also by growers worldwide who have learned traditional growing techniques perfected over the centuries. In short, plants are grown on top of a mound of high quality, long fibered sphagnum moss that is ball shaped and hollow at its core. This ball of moss sits in a pot that allows for maximum air movement around the roots.

That, I’m afraid is a really tough thing to imagine if you’ve never seen it, so I’ll have to go into detail about how this ball is made and how to incorporate the plant into it. Repotting them in this manner should be done in late winter, just before they commence their growth cycle. If you repot them at other times you can damage

growing root tips and delay proper growth during their growing season.

Check out Rogier van Vugt’s [fuukiran potting demo](#) page to see how to pot them the traditional way.

If you do decide to mount your fuukiran onto wood or tree fern, I recommend putting down a thin layer of sphagnum moss over the area of attachment to give the roots a water source between wettings. *Neofinetia* roots do not like to remain wet continuously, especially during their dormancy, but they do like a layer of moss to grow onto. I’ve had good success attaching plants to trees in my yard this way as well. I prefer to use fine fishing line to wire them on since it is strong and difficult to see. Usually within one growing season a new plant will be firmly rooted onto its mount and it time you’ll find that individual roots can extend 40 cm (16 inches) or more.

The next most important issues are temperature and watering. I’ll handle them together since they directly influence the plant’s happiness synchronously. This species comes from subtropical to warm temperate regions of Japan and Korea that get distinct seasons. In winter it is cool to even cold most of the time with temperatures ranging between -5 C to 15 C (23 F to 60 C), but these end points mark the extremes. Here in Fukuoka Prefecture a typical day in January will bottom out just above freezing, say 2 C (35 F) and rise to 8 C (46 F) by afternoon. These conditions in no way harm plants, nor are they required for an adequate dormancy, which these plants do require to grow and flower properly. My suggestion is that you drop growing temperatures to at least 10 C – 15 C (50 F – 60 F) during the winter months (December through mid March), and back

when daylight increases and temperatures rise in April, begin watering more often. Temperatures in the 15 C – 25 C range (60 F – 77 F) are ideal at this time. You will notice that root tips will begin growing again, and new roots will initiate along the attachment points of the leaf axes.



As June comes increase watering, especially if temperatures start to average above 25 C (77 C). June is the time of the monsoon in Japan, so it is OK to water the plants freely at this point. The best time to water is in early evening. I water daily once the heat kicks in. Also at this time you should start fertilizing the plants once again. Any water soluble fertilizer with micronutrients works well. Ideally they should be fed once a week while in active growth. I use a fairly weak solution, about half normal strength.

By late June (earlier if you grow inside) you will begin to see the flower stalks growing. This is the happy time for a fuukiran grower! Take care when watering as the stalks develop since direct watering onto them can cause them to blast, in particular sensitive plants like *Seikai* and *Unkai*. Also watch for pests at this time. While most of the year pests don't usually cause a problem, flower stalks with their soft new tissues are a delicacy to many bugs. I find that mealy bugs in particular love them and so you must remain vigilant. Avoid any drying at this time to insure that the flowers last as long as possible. The best you can expect is around 2 weeks for most.

After flowering is over I recommend removing any seed pods that have developed. These will only burden the plants. Keep up with watering on a daily basis and routine fertilizing. As temperatures peak you may be forced to add more shading to the growing area. *Neofinetia falcata* are naturally forest dwellers, so direct sun is not good for them. Also, higher heat increases water loss from the leaves, so decreasing light levels at this time along with adequate watering will ensure your plants thrive even during blistering periods. August 2010 was the hottest year on record in Japan. The average temperature for Fukuoka City was 30.3 C (86.5 F) with highs up to 34 C – 36 C (93 F – 97 F) daily and nights only down around 26 C – 29 C (79 F – 84 F). I was watering my plants to beat the heat and they came through with flying colors. While I wouldn't recommend such temperatures, these plants can handle it and even thrive. A good average temperature for summer is between 25 C and 28 C (77 C and 82 C), but cooler is fine too.

Fall is a time of dropping temperatures, falling light levels, and decreasing rain. It also is the time when *Neofinetia* initiate their flower stalks for next year, so you need to take care of them correctly. It is said that some growers change their fertilizer to one that favors phosphorous so as to get better blooming. That may indeed work well, but honestly I don't bother. It is important to water plants adequately at this time so that the newly developed flowering shoots stay hydrated and healthy. They are visible in some cases as a very small growth that looks somewhat like a new growth, but is more elongate. Sometimes they remain hidden under the attachment point of the leaf until the next spring, but often you can see a slight bulge.

Once true winter hits in late December I dry the plants off quite a bit, keeping them just barely moist. The trick is to keep them hydrated without rotting the roots in the colder conditions. In warmer conditions, say above 15 C (60 C) if you water too much they will break dormancy. Another problem during this time is keeping those new flower stalks alive through the winter. If kept too dry they will die, so don't desiccate the plants and keep the humidity above 50%, with 70% – 80% being preferable.



At this time it is OK to give the plants more light as well since in their native homes they often grow on deciduous trees and are subject to more sunshine, albeit weak winter sunshine. Also, no fertilizer at this time at all. Wait until spring when you see roots starting to grow, then you can begin feeding again.

All in all, I find *fuukiran* easy to grow and flower, in fact they may be the easiest Japanese orchid species to keep. If you use the above information as a guideline, I can almost guarantee you will succeed with these little beauties too.

Pictured Left: Roots start growing in spring. These lovely ruby red root tips belong to the

flowered form, Shutennou. :

For more information Visit www.botanyboy.org

Article taken from : botanyboy.org

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Upcoming for June

June 26 is our Annual General Meeting when we elect a new executive. Nominations are being accepted by Don Harquail, Hazel Stewart, and Margaret Elvidge. You can self nominate, or have someone nominate you.

Upcoming Speakers :

June 2013 Poul Hansen, AOS judge from Victoria, on *Miltonias*

September 2013: Glen Decker, from N.Y., on "Growing Great Slipper Orchids"

October 2013: Ron Hanko, Washington state, on "Wardian Cases"

Pacific Northwest Judging Center (PNWJC) meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at Sea Island Community Center, 7140 Miller road, Richmond, B.C. at noon. Everyone is welcome to bring in their orchids for consideration by the American Orchid Society Judges. Why attend? This an opportunity to see more orchids, and many orchids of award quality. The judging center serves the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, and orchids are brought in from far and wide. You will learn about how an orchid is evaluated for an award. Small, friendly atmosphere. If you love orchids, this is one more opportunity to indulge. **May 11th and June 8th** next meetings of PNWJC

ITEMS FOR SALE

used 2 shelf (originally 3 shelf) Floralight Plant Stands with 2 4 light fluorescent fixtures each. \$250 each

Stands come with trays, egg crating, adjustable light height, and a complete zippered plastic cover. Good condition.

They can easily be disassembled for transport.

1 wood custom made plant stand WITHOUT LIGHT FIXTURES, 4 shelves, 26" deep, 68" high, 50" long. \$100

Approximately 20 used clear domes for seed trays, approx 6" high \$25 for all

Deluxe Watering Set with 50' coil up hose and rack (Lee Valley) \$25

Located in the West End. Call Don at 604-682-7870



For Sale

If any member would like to post items for sale, please contact Holly

Email at: neesabelle@hotmail.com

Message from the Editor,

Thanks to everyone for all the support and kind words over the past few years.

I have enjoyed my time doing the newsletter, but it is time for me to take a break and do some travelling, so with that I am passing the newsletter onto Holly Martin.

Holly has graciously stepped up to continue on with the job ...Thank you Holly !

Any submissions for June's newsletter, please contact Holly

at neesabelle@hotmail.com

Hope to see you all soon at the next VOS meeting.

Chris

**Agenda:
Monthly Meeting: Wednesday April 24, 2013
Van Dusen Floral Hall**

Meeting was called to order:

7:35 PM

Approval of the Minutes from the last Meeting
Moved Roak Citroen, **Seconded** Barbara Cable.
Adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Erik Nilsen

GIC:	\$17,129.24
Petty Cash:	\$ 177.72
Chequing:	\$ 7,629.70
Profit from the VOS show 2013	\$ 3,219.00

Membership Report

Margaret Prat

Margaret welcomed new members.

New members were reminded to provide the society with a current email address and phone number.

President's Report:

Margaret Prat

• ***Annual General Meeting (AGM) June 26, 2013***

The nomination committee is currently accepting nominations for the upcoming AGM. The committee is composed of: Don Harquail, Margaret Elvidge and Hazel Stewart.

If you are interested in serving on the executive committee, please contact contact Don H (dnd5224@gmail.com). Individuals can self-nominate.

Nominations/self nominations will also be accepted at the AGM. If you are nominating someone else, please ensure before the AGM that they are willing to accept nomination.

For the AGM, we have also secured a guest speaker: Mr. Poul Hansen, an experienced orchid grower will present on the growing of Miltonias.

- ***Show Committee for the VOS show 2014***

We are already planning for next years show.

We have sent out a survey to all Members re: the recently held show asking for input on how we may improve next year's show. Please take the time to complete and return the survey. Paper copies of the survey were handed out at the meeting. The current show committee meets on April 30th to review best practices for the VOS shows.

- ***Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show***

Thank you to Erik Nilsen and Keith Willett who transported our orchids and set-up the VOS show table; and to Susan Brandl who "took down" the show; and to Don Harquail who collected the plants before and after the show.

- ***Trip to Victoria-May 04***

We are planning a trip to Salt Spring Island. On Salt Spring Island, we plan to visit Fraser Thimble Farms that will be presenting "Orchidmania" in conjunction with their event "Growing Native Plants". Visitors will receive a 10% discount on orchids and a 20% discount on native plants. The farm is open from 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM.

A number of Members have signed up for the trip. If you are interested in going, please contact Margaret Prat (margaretprat@shaw.ca) directly.

The ferry leaves from Tsawwassen at 9:00 AM heading to Victoria/Swartz Bay. At Swartz Bay you transfer to the 11:00 AM ferry heading to Fulford Bay/Salt Spring Island. We are aiming to carpool if possible. The

- ***Temporary editor of the newsletter***

Our regular editor Chris Ostenstad will be on vacation during the month of June, so we are seeking a volunteer to produce the June newsletter. If available, please contact Margaret Prat (margaretprat@shaw.ca)

- ***Website***

The website is 99.9% complete. Jennifer who is overseeing the development of the new site reported that the information and content are completed but there have been some glitches with the uploading. Jennifer has elected that some of the executive members review the data before the final upload.

Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VancouverOrchidSociety>) is active and is being maintained by Don H. Beautiful photos are being uploaded daily.

The site also contains links to the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) where members can find excellent culture sheets for growing various orchid types.

- ***Trip to Ecuador***

Merv Lutes from the Fraser Valley Orchid Society is arranging for an orchid tour to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands from January 12-29, 2014. The tour is called "Natural Wonders of Ecuador and the Galapagos and is offered in conjunction with Rostad Tours. Brochures are now available. For more information contact Rostad Tours at toll free telephone number: 1-800-361-8687 or email: tours@rostad.com.

- **Culture Class**

Just a reminder that culture classes are presented on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Cedar Room (located at the back of the Floral Hall).

On Apr 08th, the presentation was on the rafting of orchids with Roak Citroen demonstrating the mounting of a number of different types of orchids. The presentation was very well attended and the feedback has been very positive.

The next culture class will take place on Monday May 13th.

On May 13th, Margaret Prat will lead the group on "How to select orchids and build a collection".

On June 10th-Bev Hansen will present on de-flasking orchids (phalaenopsis).

- **Bloedel Conservatory**

The VOS has decided to participate in a display at the Conservatory 2 times per year. The next display is scheduled for May 24, 25, and 26 with set-up taking place on May 23 and take-down taking place on May 27.

To note, we have reduced our display time from 10 days to 3 days. We need plants for the display, so if you are able to provide plants for the display, please bring them to the next monthly meeting – May 22. We also need volunteers to attend the display and provide general information to the visitors on how to grow and care for orchids and to hand out culture sheets to those interested.

Each of the 3 show days will be comprised of two shifts: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the May meeting.

- **Monthly Guest Speakers**

May TBA

June Poul Hansen, Topic: Miltonias

We are already developing the speaker roster for 2014:

September Mr. Glen Decker, from Piping Rock Orchids, NY state.
Glen is a successful and prize winning grower of Slipper Orchids. His Phrag kovachii was one of the first to be awarded.
Glen will be taking plant pre-orders as well as bringing plants for sale at the meeting .

October Mr. Ron Hanko, from Washington state will be presenting on Wardian Cases. Ron builds these cases that are very suitable for orchids that thrive in hot/cold **moist** environments.

- **Raffle**

It should be noted that a number of the odontoglossums/ocnidiums presented on the raffle table tonight were donated from the private collection of the late Dr. Wally Thomas.

Thank you to Margaret Elvidge and Don Dinning for conducting the raffle tonight.
The following members donated to the raffle:

Carla Bischoff	bromeliads	Joan Walton	1 orchid
Jennifer Fabre	2 orchids	Dr. Wally Thomas	
Margaret Prat	lights	collection	15 orchids
		Joan Walton	1 orchid
		Anonymous	4 orchids

Meeting Adjourned:

8:00 PM

Tonight's Guest Speaker:

Dr. John Beatty
Topic: Darwin and Orchids

Next month's speaker:

Travis Brown, Future Harvest Development
Topic: T5 lighting