

Volume 3 , Issue 3

November 2012

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

Executive/Board of Directors

President : Margaret Prat

1st VP: Nora von Gerichten

2nd VP: Roak Citroen

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Director 2 Jennifer Fabre

Director 3 : Keith Willett

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Bloedel Committee: Radina Jevdevic &

Dr Wally Thomas

Membership Committee: Patrick Milligen

Prize Draws: Margaret Elvidge

Kitchen: Stella Li & Terry Sing

BCCoGC Rep: Bill & Carla Bischoff

Library: Barbara Cable

COC/AOS Rep: Chris Ostenstad

Web Master: Gideon Singer

Mailing Address: PO BOX 42025

Marpole PRO, Vancouver, BC

V6P 6S6

Newsletter: Chris Ostenstad

Please send your contributions to:

costenstad@shaw.ca

www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca



November 19, 2012 : Culture class 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm

Cedar room, VanDusen Gardens.

We will be discussing rest periods for orchids, but bring all your orchid related questions to the class. Your chance to learn and share!

Following in the NEW YEAR, first culture class with be Monday
January 14th, 2013

Upcoming Meeting

November 28th Christmas Social

Doors open at 6:00pm. Bring a dish to share ! Bring a silent auction item !
Bring a blooming orchid for the show table ! Dinner, followed by the show
table, followed by the AUCTION !

(Don't forget some cash or your cheque book, there is bound to be good
auction items !!)

Volunteers needed for setup, please come and help with you can !

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



Announcements

Dianne Gillis of the Fraser Valley Orchid Show wants to thank all VOS members who pre-registered their orchids by email the night before (which was almost everyone); this made her life much easier, and registration went smoothly this year. She is aiming for 75% pre-registration next year (45% this year). Thank you!

Amendment to the VOS Constitution proposed:

From 3(b): Board of Director's Meetings - ("Board Meeting") shall be held at such time and place as recommended by the Board and approved by the membership, provided that at least one Board Meeting is held in each calendar month. The Society shall not be required to hold a Board Meeting during the months of July and August.

To 3(b): Board of Director's Meetings - ("Board Meeting") shall be held at such time and place as recommended by the Board and approved by the membership, provided that at least five Board meetings are held in each calendar year.

This amendment will be voted on at the November 28 Christmas Social

Message from The President

Dear fellow orchidists,

As I sit and gaze out my window at the rain, I ponder what all this gloomy weather is doing for the sun loving orchids. They are no doubt "taking a nap", and we all must be mindful that all orchids need less water, less fertilizer, and less pampering in this season.

In fact, the next culture class will be about rest periods for orchids, an important topic if one wants to get blooms from orchids that have a definite rest period in their home countries. That meeting will be Monday November 19 in the Cedar room, 6:30 to 8:30. This class will again be led by Roak Citroen, with the assistance of other expert growers. Come join us for an informative and informal evening! Your executive is hard at work!!!

Website development is moving forward, and if our straw vote at the last meeting was any indication, it is through the website that many new members find us. Hence, an updated website is an essential tool in our desire to see the Society have a more modern presence in the Web world. Being a Luddite, I don't participate in Facebook or Twitter, but I suppose those are the logical next steps.

It is not often we talk about our constitution, but we must address a practical problem that has arisen in the recent past. Our constitution says that we are to have monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, except in July and August (not to be confused with the General Monthly meetings for the members), but the reality has been 5 meetings on average, rather than the 10 meetings which are required by the constitution. Given the demands on everyone's time, especially our volunteer Board members, I will ask the assembly to ratify a change that would have the constitution requiring a minimum of five Board meetings in a calendar year. This would put us in compliance with our constitution. I would to comment that the present Board has met monthly.

And it is that time of year again!!!! Our Christmas social will be on Wednesday November 28. This is a relaxing and fun evening with a pot luck dinner, and much lively conversation. If you are new to the Society, do not hesitate to come, this is the greatest opportunity to meet fellow orchidists. As we did last year, there will be an orchid show table, and an auction. If you have a nice orchid related item, or some other forgotten treasure in your home with which you could part, please consider donating it to the Auction. Divisions of plants and orchid books also make great auction items. Proceeds of the Auction help finance the Society's various activities. If you know of a business that would be willing to donate an auction item, that would be great! We will acknowledge donations from businesses. As this is my last opportunity to do so (no newsletter in December!),

I want to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May all your orchids bloom for you in the coming year!!!

Margaret Prat President

Every month show off your Orchids at our meeting!

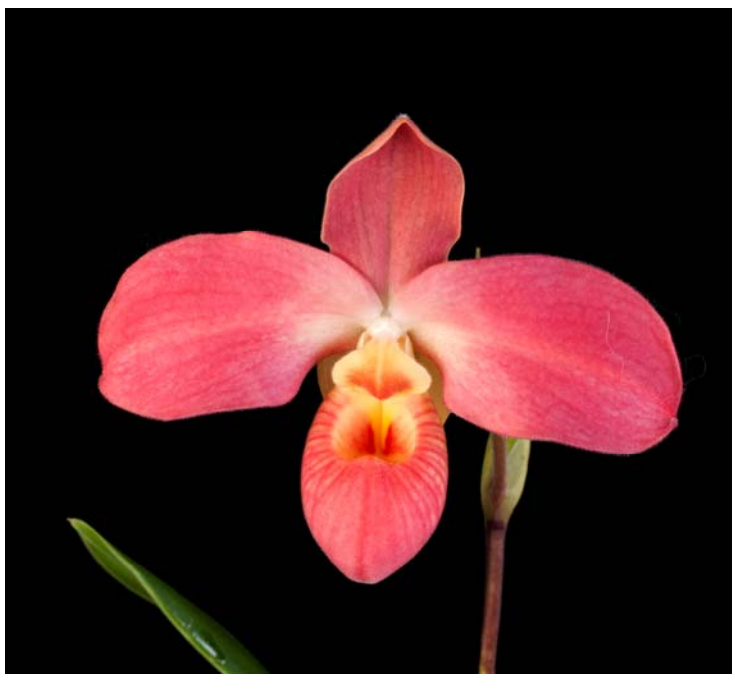
If you would like to volunteer on the monthly judging team, just ask !





Hybrid, Flower Quality,
Grower: Faue Kuntz

Phrag. Jason Fisher 4N



Hybrid, Flower Quality,
Phrag kovachii x besseae var delassandroi
Grower: Faye Kuntz



Species, Unusual species, *Maxillaria schunkeana*
Grower: Rob Elvidge



Species, Plant Culture, *Paph spicerianum*
Grower: Margaret Prat



Members Choice

Hybrid, Flower Quality, Dend. Enobi Purple “Splash”

Grower: Melanie Gallacher



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

Hybrid, Flower Quality, Dend. Big Alex-alexandrae

Grower: Carla Bischoff



Species, Plant Culture, Dend. dichaeoides

Grower: Carla Bischoff

Pictures from the Fraser Valley Show



Best Visiting Society – Vancouver Orchid Society



Best of all others 11.1 to 11.3 - *Ceratostylis rubra* – Carla Bischoff



Best Cymbidium - Cym Butterball – Margaret Prat



Best in Dendrobium Grouping - Dend Big Alex – Carla Bischoff



Best Orchid Mounted (slab) - *Dend dichaeoides* - Carla Bischoff



Best Orchid Grown on a Windowsill with no artificial light - *Onc chaculatum* – Roak Citroen



Best Phalaenopsis - Phal equestris Riverbend AM AOS – Don Harquail



Best First-bloom seedling (not a mericlone) all others - Phrag Kovatchii x besseae var. Dalessandroi – Faye Kuntz



Best in Pleurothallis Group -
Pleurothallis sonderana – Carla Bischoff

The COC on Facebook October 04, 2012

The Canadian Orchid Congress and Montreal/Toronto Judging Centers have launched a new Facebook site under the name "ORCHID JOURNAL".



This initiative was developed to enhance and compliment local society efforts in maintaining information sites and is intended to be used as an orchid community bulletin board. Your orchid society and its members can now post directly to this site - pictures, meeting notices, recognition of special volunteers' contributions, show publicity, etc.

If your Society maintains a Facebook site, please 'like' us at [Orchid Journal](#) and your site will get the latest in updates from the COC and your orchid community.

Please contact me if you have any questions and/or suggestions!

Marlene Young, Facebook Administrator, ORCHID JOURNAL
Email: marlyoung@hotmail.com

Orchid Nutrition for Winter

By Susan Jones

Planning for the optimum health and blooms of your orchids through winter and into spring is as important as their day-to-day care. Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can boost their resistance to damage from pests, disease and winter temperatures in the coming months

Overall Health

Orchids will fare better in encounters with pests, diseases and temperature extremes if they are in a good state of overall health. A plant suffering from under or over-fertilizing, or stressed from lack of water is much more likely to be injured by any additional strain.

Orchids grown under less than ideal conditions are more likely to be a target for infection or infestation. Make an extra effort now to get plants and their greenhouse or growing area in good shape for the shorter, darker days ahead by removing old foliage, weeds and dying flowers. An autumn cleanup can minimize or prevent the pest and disease problems that can crop up in the darker and more crowded conditions that often characterize the winter growing area.



General Nutrition

Light levels and temperatures begin to fall at this time of year, and your orchids' nutritional needs change accordingly. Orchid growers can take the following steps now to help prepare their collection for optimal health through the months ahead.

If your orchids will winter outdoors, fertilizing properly can help them resist cold, insect and disease damage, as well as give them two to three additional degrees of cold resistance. This can mean the difference between a dead orchid and an unscathed plant or one that just loses a few leaves.

Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen (which should be nitrate nitrogen, not urea nitrogen) and high in potassium; the numbers on the label should read something like 10-5-20. Watering and fertilizing should be reduced in frequency for the cooler autumn season, and orchids that bloom during the winter and into spring should be given a couple of doses of blossom booster in October and November; bloom boosters should have a higher middle number, such as 10-50-10

Ideally, this change in fertilizer should start by mid-November and continue through the end of January. This regime will sacrifice plant growth in December and January in favor of plant protection, but it can help keep the plant healthier overall.

Some growers recommend using Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt (0-0-3), a liquid nutritional potassium-silicon supplement for plants. The product is supposed to improve heat and drought tolerance in orchids, as well as boosting their resistance to pests, disease and environmental stress.

Specific Genera

Seasonal nutritional needs differ among various orchid genera, and may diverge still further depending on local climatic conditions in disparate geographic regions. The following guidelines may require modification to accommodate individual growing conditions.

Cattleya Watering and fertilizing frequency should be reduced, as the plants dry out more slowly in the cooler temperatures and shorter days.

Bud sheaths may yellow at this time of year as temperature fluctuations can cause water to condense inside the sheath. Should you notice condensation in the sheath, it should be opened or removed to allow the developing buds adequate air circulation and prevent bud blast caused by rots. Simply slit open the sheath and carefully peel it down toward the pseudobulb, exercising caution so as not to damage the delicate bud primordia within.

Dendrobium Autumn and winter needs vary according to the species or hybrid parentage in this diverse genus. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* hybrids will benefit from a fertilizer with a low nitrogen formula for optimal flowering.

The leaves of *Dendrobium nobile* types and their hybrids begin to yellow and drop at this time of year in preparation for their winter dormancy. Plants should be given plenty of light and good air circulation and kept dry from November through February. Mist occasionally if their canes become overly shriveled.

Paphiopedilum Generally, these do not require a great deal of fertilizer. This is especially important with the cooler-growing bulldog types to reduce nitrogen levels at this time of year for best flowering. (Bulldog Paphiopedilums have plain green leaves as opposed to the mottled-leaf types. One of the best-known bulldog-type hybrids is *Paphiopedilum* Winston Churchill.) Watch for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath or for late-season warm spells, as either can rot the sheath and destroy the developing inflorescence. While Paphiopedilums should not be allowed to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced in the cooler days. Overwatering can cause root rot or Erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis Growth slows and inflorescences begin to appear. Reduce watering and fertilizing frequency, and apply a bloom-boosting fertilizer. Many growers also recommend applications of epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to Phalaenopsis at this time of year to prevent yellowing and loss of lower leaves and to enhance blooming. Once buds are evident on the inflorescences, keep temperatures and humidity consistent to prevent bud drop. Phalaenopsis grown in the greenhouse are especially prone to bud blast in February and early March, when the heat is still coming on at night and the greenhouse temperatures rise during the day.

Vanda Aside from *Neofinetia falcata*, vandaceous orchids generally do not tolerate autumn and winter's cooler temperatures (below 60° F [16° C]) well and need to be carefully protected from chills. Vandaceous orchids still need as much light as possible as the days become shorter and light levels fall. Reduce the frequency of fertilizing and watering to accommodate the slower growth period they are entering. Starting the first week of October, Julie Rosenberg at R.F. Orchids in Homestead, Florida, recommends feeding vandaceous genera a blossom booster fertilizer exclusively, once a week for four to six weeks, at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water (15 ml to 3.8 l), with normal watering between. In November, begin fertilizing every other week, using a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer at 1 teaspoon per gallon (15 ml to 3.8 l), substituting bloom booster every fourth feeding.

Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can mean happier, healthier and more productive plants year round.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446 Article taken from AOS



By providing the right nutrients in the fall, a bounty of blooms will follow for late-winter species such as this *Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'Banjong' AM/AOS.

Messages from Members

Tune and Watch Don Harquail !

Recipe to Riches is a competition reality series that gives amateur Canadian cooks an opportunity to share their most delicious, home-grown recipes with the entire country and compete for a grand prize worth \$250,000.

Recipes are judged based on taste, presentation, originality, the story behind the recipe and its' suitability to become a mass produced grocery store product. Each category winning dish is made available in select Loblaw banner stores across the country days after the winning, giving Canadians an opportunity to try it for themselves, and vote for their ultimate favourite recipe.

At the conclusion of seven episodes, the category winners return for showdown' grand finale. Canadians will then have an opportunity to vote for the 'best of the best' and decide who wins the \$250,000 grand prize.

I made it in the top (3) of the Candies/Chocolates category. My episode will air November 21st. Look up my bio details at the web link below. It was so much fun.

<http://www.foodnetwork.ca/recipe-to-riches/season2/biolanding.html>

The first promo video of Recipe to Riches Season 2 just came out . You will find a link for it below. The first one is on Youtube, the second one is the same but on Facebook. It's now a commercial on the Foodnetwork. If you have Facebook you can follow me, just send me a friend request, I am now also on Twitter under DGH14.

The video is a lot of fun. Please share with anyone that you know.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhwoW7gP06k&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>

<http://www.facebook.com/recipe toriches>

Any members that would like to post a note in Orchiflora, please contact Chris Ostenstad costenstad@shaw.ca before the fifth of the month.

Minutes from the Meeting: Wednesday, October 24, 2012

Meeting was called to order: 7:10 PM

Treasurer's Report

Erik reported on the society's current financial position.

President's Report: Margaret Prat

New Members:

No new members to report.

We do have a strong society. Every member is encouraged to buy a name tag which when worn at meetings entitles you to a free raffle ticket.

Patrick has received a batch of name tags for those who placed orders earlier.

A straw vote was taken to ascertain how new members (those who joined over the last two years) heard about the society: Bloedel Conservatory 1; internet 2; VOS show 1.

Bloedel Conservatory:

It was felt that an 11 day display is too long! During last months display our volunteers were able to advertise the Fraser Valley Orchid Society show in October and our society show in March 2013.

However, overall, it was difficult to find volunteers to staff the display. Many members had to volunteer for a number of shifts and days.

The executive committee is recommending that the display be shortened to 3 days only (over a weekend) where volunteers engage visitors in general discussions about orchids rather than giving any type of "formal" presentation. It was noted that during the week most of the visitors are "out of town" tourists whereas during the weekend most of the visitors are local people. It was felt that the display should take place about 2 weeks prior to the VOS spring show.

A straw vote was taken to gauge support: 15/30. The recommendations will be deferred.

Questions were taken concerning the Bloedel event:

- 1) Do members feel comfortable displaying their orchids just prior to any formal show?

Consensus: Maybe.

- 2) Do volunteers have to be well versed about all orchids?

Consensus: The volunteer need not be an expert but needs to be able to talk about general orchid culture; highlight the diversity of orchids; and, raise the profile of our society.

Fraser Valley Orchid Show

It was a nice show. Less plants were shown than last year. Our society did well. We presented 60 plants on our table. Thank you to everyone who showed plants. Also, special thanks to Carla, Eugene, Don, Patrick, Faye and Rob who submitted a lot of plants. Kudos to Carla who won a number of 1sts.

The VOS won for the “best visiting society” display.

Thank you to Carla and Faye who helped with the set-up.

Culture Class:

On Monday, October 15th, Roak presented on vandas. Fifteen (15) people attended. The feedback was positive.

The next class will take place on Monday, November 19th at 6:30 PM in the Cedar Room at Van Dusen Gardens. Roak will present “rest periods” for orchids.

Remember to enter by the side doors near Oak Street.

Please bring in your own orchids if they are ailing or if you have questions about them!

Christmas Social:

This is an annual fun event that provides us with a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends.

There will be no guest speaker. It will again be a potluck dinner so please bring in one of your favourite dishes. There will be a show table and a “live” auction.

We need help in obtaining items to auction. They should be orchid related. Please consider what you can contribute.

Also we will need volunteers to help with set-up; take-down; and decorations. Please let Margaret know if you can assist with any of these duties.

Executive Meetings and Recommendations from the Executive:

Recommendations pertaining to the Bloedel Conservatory event have been listed above.

A prior recommendation centered on how to improve our meetings by changing the start time and limiting the duration of the business portion of our meetings. It was recommended that our monthly society meetings start one-half (1/2) hour earlier resulting in a start time of 7:00 PM.

Tonight was the first meeting with the new start time of 7:00 PM. Traffic was heavier than anticipated.

Questions to the audience revealed that the traffic was heavier when travelling from Tsawwassen and the North Shore.

It was suggested that the executive committee should re-consider the change and contemplate reverting to a meeting start-time of 7:30 PM with the doors opening at 6:30 PM.

Culture Cards:

There is a recommendation that each contributor to the show table complete a very simple culture card to place next to any orchid that they would like to feature. The card is in a tick box format that highlights the following:

Grown	Light	Temperature
Windowsill	High	Warm
Greenhouse	Medium	Intermediate
Under lights	Low	Cool

Vancouver Orchid Show 2013

The volunteer co-ordinator for the show is Don Harquail.

Raffle:

Thank you to contributors to the raffle:

Carla Bischoff-2 orchids; Barbara Cable-3 orchids; Roak Citroen-3 orchids; Don Dinning-2 orchids; Jennifer Fabre-8 orchids + a set of 6 small orchids; Fay Kunz-1 orchid; Cecilia Lee-1 orchid; Nora von Gerichten-1 orchid.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 PM

Guest Speakers:

Tonight's guest speaker was Paul Lin, Big Leaf Orchids who spoke on the topic of: "Phalaenopsis".

Next month's event Christmas Social.

