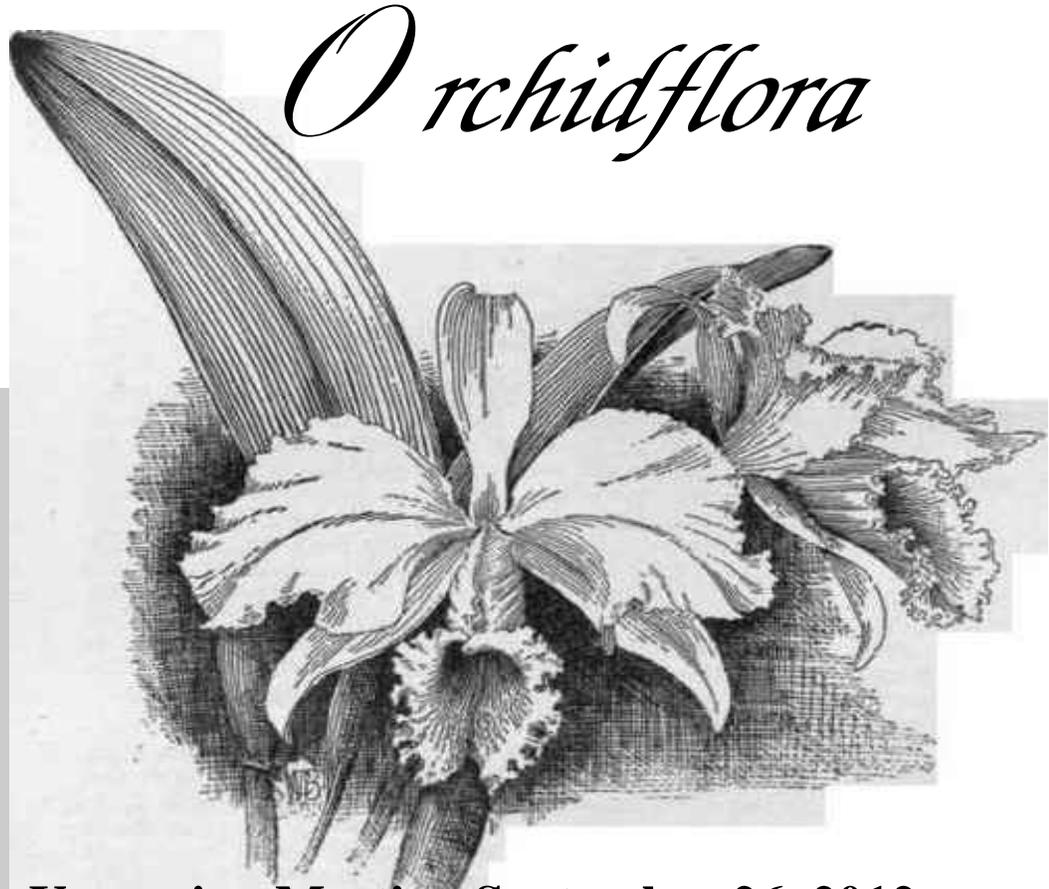


**Volume 3 , Issue 1**

**September 2012**

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



# *O rchidflora*

## ***Executive/Board of Directors***

President : Margaret Prat  
1st VP: Nora von Gerichten  
2nd VP: Roak Citroen  
Secretary: Peter Hopkins  
Treasurer: Eric Nilsen  
Past President: Koichi Nakatani  
Director 1 Cecilia Lee  
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Director 3 : Keith Willett  
Director 4: Ainslie Blanchett  
Director 5: Demi Wu

## ***Volunteer/Committees***

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: Ricky Leung  
COC/AOS Rep: Chris Ostenstad  
Web Master: Gideon Singer

**Mailing Address:** PO BOX 42025  
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**Newsletter:** Chris Ostenstad

**Please send your contributions to:**  
[costenstad@shaw.ca](mailto:costenstad@shaw.ca)  
[www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca](http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca)

## **Upcoming Meeting September 26, 2012**

Monthly speaker: Calvin Wong, Growing your orchids in a semi-hydroponic medium

**Culture Class returns September 10th**, VanDusen Cedar Room  
6:30 to 8:30pm - Focus of this culture class will be Dendrobiums - types, care & culture. Bring your questions, bring your experience! General culture questions also encouraged. Moderated by Roak Citroen and Margaret Prat, with the able assistance of all those who will want to share their knowledge. Expect this to be a lively and informative culture class!

**Bloedel Conservatory Orchid Show: September 28 to October 8 (inclusive) 11 am to 3 pm.** We are again participating in promoting orchids at the Bloedel Conservatory. Set up of the display will be Thursday September 27 and tear down Tuesday October 9. We need your help!!! We need orchids and we need volunteer time!!! Vicki Earle will advertise that we give "Orchid Talks" rather than tours- these were very popular in the past, and we reach many people who are interested in orchids, but feel intimidated by their culture. Orchid talks will be at 11 am, 12 pm and 2 pm. Come share your love of orchids in a beautiful tropical setting, complete with lovely birds!!! Koichi and myself will gather up "loaner orchids" after the Wednesday night monthly meeting September 26; if you are unable to make the meeting, but would still like to share your orchids, please email me to make arrangements for pick up ([margaretprat@shaw.ca](mailto:margaretprat@shaw.ca))

**Monthly General Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month  
(except July, August & December) at Van Dusen Floral Hall**

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## *More upcoming Events*

**Fraser Valley Orchid Show:** Plan to attend this lovely show in Langley either on Friday preview night, October 19, October 20, 9am to 5 pm, October 21, 10 am to 4 pm. George Preston Recreation Center, 20699 42nd Avenue, Langley, B.C. The preview night supper is an outstanding value at \$15 per ticket: great food, and you will be the first to shop among all the lovely orchids. Many of the vendors will take pre-orders, so consult the website for more details ([www.fraservalleyorchidsociety.ca](http://www.fraservalleyorchidsociety.ca))

Library: Barbara Cable, our librarian, spent the full day of our August sale, sorting through the bookshelves. Come and borrow some handy books, still easier than cruising the internet from site to site. Also, the Society has the latest issues of Orchid Digest and Orchids (the official magazine of the AOS) which can be checked out for a month. Let's use our library and talk about how to make

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## *Message from The President*

Dear orchid fanciers,

We are in the last days of summer: the days are getting shorter, the nights cooler. I brought some of my orchids outside for some fresh air and sunshine during the summer, and they have been rewarded with lots of light. I am planning to follow Roak's advice about orchids outside: bring them out around Easter, and bring back in for Thanksgiving. I hope for all those who have tried this approach, they have found their orchids more robust, and benefitting from all that natural light.

I would like to remind everyone that we will be holding our first culture class on Monday September 10, before our first Monthly Meeting. Let's talk about Dendrobiums, a genus with more than 1,000 species!!! We will discuss the most popularly grown Dendrobiums, and give some handy tips for growing and flowering these robust orchids. See the announcement above for more details. I am hoping that we will have good attendance, as traditionally we have not had culture class in September.

In my humble view, our August sale was a success. Our attendance was better than last year, and we were seeing many of the regulars from our March sale. Although profits from the August sale are not enormous, it is another opportunity to talk about orchids, buy orchids, learn to grow orchids, and socialize with other orchid lovers. A big THANK YOU to all who helped! Our very able treasurer, Erik Nilsen organized the August sale, Margaret Elvidge (and her elves) ran the raffle table (always profitable), Hazel & Sylvia manned the members' table, and our new librarian, Barbara Cable spent the day sorting out the books from our library (only the more current books were kept). Everyone's help was appreciated. I am only sorry I couldn't stay for the full day.

Your executive has been hard at work!!!! We met on August 14 and discussed the future direction of the Vancouver Orchid Society. We know we must attract and retain new members, for the long term viability of our Society. I remain convinced there are many orchid lovers who don't appreciate how a membership with the Society can be rewarding. In this context, the website renewal is very important, but this has been delayed, and we are hoping to launch the new website in the New Year. On a practical level, there were other suggestions from the executive that I will share with the members at our September meeting.

In closing, let me share a little practical tip. I know the importance of plant hygiene and keeping those wilted leaves cut off, or that flower stem trimmed. But sterilizing my scissors always discouraged me. A solution I had read about many years ago was finally implemented. I bought one sided razor blades (finally figured out that paint stores always carry these, about \$2 for 5 blades), and filled a glass jar with 99% rubbing alcohol. So now I trim off with my handy blade, and then i drop it into the alcohol (not much survives in that solution, certainly no viruses). After several hours, I recover the blade from the alcohol, and use it again. My collection has never been so neatly trimmed!

And oh, for those who were at the June meeting (we discussed orchid pests and diseases). Melanie Gallacher kindly shared that she used Critter Creek Laboratories for virus testing. I tried them and it worked like a charm. Their website gives clear instructions on how to proceed, and the most difficult part is that your payment is by US bank draft. I checked out home orchid virus testing, and the price through Critter Creek Laboratories is competitive. Thank you Melanie for flagging this service to the membership.

I am trying out a new pesticide, I will keep the membership posted on how it works....

Happy orchid growing, and let's keep sharing, Margaret.

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## Minutes from 27 July 2012 AGM Meeting

The meeting began at 7:35.

Margaret Prat, Vice-President's report:

One new member, Elizabeth

Get your name tag that has benefits, Get a free raffle ticket

Kitchen donations, Also get a free raffle ticket

Culture class is well attended

Next meeting 10 September In Cedar Room 6:30-8:30 Concentration will be on Dendrobiums

Library books are due, books need to be returned

New members are often not sure what to read so we are asking for annotations from people who have read the book.

VOS belongs to AOS and consequently get their magazine which may be taken out of the library.

Treasurer's Report

- Erik is to send me the spreadsheet to insert here
- Ross Wilson moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and the motion was seconded
- There was a discussion on where the GIC came from

In former times, a commission was charged at the annual show rather than a charge for table. This was quite profitable but a major headache.

Highlights of the Year , Good line-up of speakers, Paramount Orchids moving to Vancouver Island

AGM For the first time in a few years, there is a full slate

President: Margaret Prat1<sup>st</sup>

VP (Speakers): Nora von Gerichten

2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Culture): Roak Citroen

Secretary: Peter Hopkins

Treasurer: Erik Nilsen

Directors: Cecilia Lee , Demi Wu , Jennifer Fabre

Membership: Patrick Milligen

No other nominations; Accepted by acclimation

President's Thank You

- A big thank you to members stepping down

Seline – Thank you for being on the board for so long

- Website will be renewed
- New logo is needed – any design ideas contact Margarite
- August 11 Sale, We count on membership to put up posters, Community centres only put up for 1 week, 6.5 tables (Forestview will have two tables)

Bloedel initiative is at the end of September

Raffle Donation to Raffle Table,, Marilyn Allen - many orchids, Barbara Stewart – book, Don Harquil - orchid



Top : Unusual Species, *Lycaste rubarosa* x *auburn*     Grower, Eugene Banziger  
 Left: Flower Quality, *Vanda*     Grower, Hazel Stewart



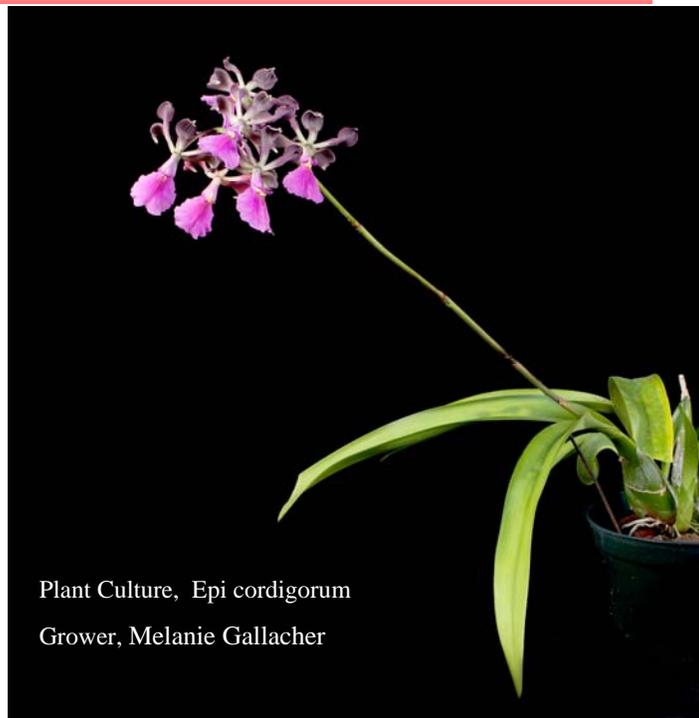
Flower Quality, *Oncidium* Volcano Midnight "Volcano Queen"  
 Grower, Eugene Banziger



Unusual Species, *Jonopsis utricularioides*  
 Grower, Cecilia Lee



Unusual Species, Epi Cindy x Alatum  
Grower, Cecilia Lee



Plant Culture, Epi cordigorum  
Grower, Melanie Gallacher



Plant Culture, Dendrobium bellatulum  
Grower, Melanie Gallacher



Plant Culture, BLC Greenwich Elmburt  
Grower, Melanie Gallacher



Flower Quality, Vanda blue x rattana Grower, Eugene Banziger

***Every month show off your  
Orchids at our meeting!***

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



Top Left: Unusual Species, *Den wassellie* Grower, Koichi Nakatani

Top Right: Unusual Species, *Onc concolor* Grower, Carla Bischoff



Bottom Left: Plant Culture, *Den Aussie Green macrophyllum*  
Grower, Carla Bischoff

## Messages from Members

Our August sale prize draw went well due to the generosity of the following vendors who donated flowering orchids and other items:

Eugene Banziger, Roak and Peter, Terry of Forestview Gardens and Happy Farm.

Many thanks to all. - Margaret Elvidge

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I hope to put in another order from Thailand at the end of September > which will arrive shortly before the October meeting.

If anyone is > interested, they can contact me for the list of species and/or hybrids. [wlg@pacificcoast.net](mailto:wlg@pacificcoast.net) - Nora von Gerichten

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

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Pictured Above is a Vanda tricolor. Carla has had this plant for 10 years. It is now over 2 feet tall and this is the first bloom.

Picture on the left is a few days later. The colour deepens with time.

Thanks for Sharing this Carla !!