

Volume 2 , Issue 4

January 2012

Educating, growing
& embracing the joy
of orchids

for

66 Years

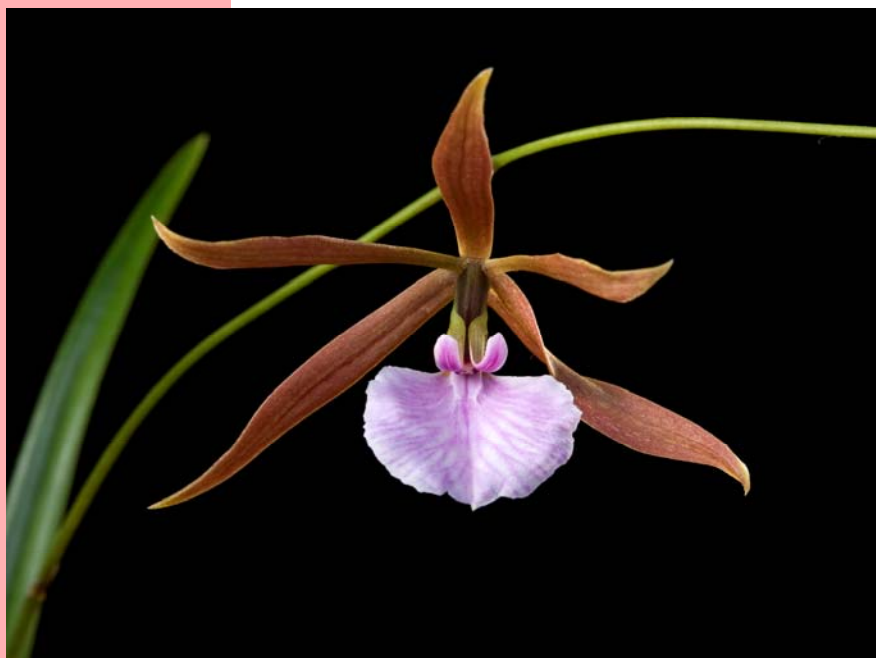


Upcoming Meeting: January 25, 2012

Speaker this month is Marilyn Light , presenting

“Entering the World of Chinese Orchids” - Chinese Cymbidiums, Cypripediums, and other wild Chinese orchids will be discussed in terms of cultural history, conservation, and cultivation. Marilyn Light was an invited speaker at the First Chinese Cymbidium Conference, Beijing, 2007, where she had an opportunity to meet with 400 growers. See Marilyn’s Bio on Page 2

Oops... We have made a mistake in the October newsletter ! Featured below is: *Encyclia bractensens*, Grown by Patrick Milligen



ORCHIFLORA

**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**

Executive/Board of Directors

President :Vacant

1st VP: Margaret Prat

2nd VP: Vacant

Secretary: Nora von Gerichten

Treasurer: Eric Nilsen

Past President: Koichi Nakatani

Director 1 Cecilia Lee

Director 2 Selene Y. Shen

Director 3 : Keith Willet

Director 4: Ainslie Blanchett

Director 5: Demi Wu

Volunteer/Committees

Bloedel Committee: Radina Jevdevic &

Dr Wally Thomas

Membership Committee: Bill Bischoff

Prize Draws: Margaret Elvidge

Kitchen: Stella Li & Terry Sing

BCCoGC Rep: Bill & Carla Bischoff

Library: Ricky Leung

Botanical Advisor: vacant

COC/AOS Rep: Chris Ostenstad

Web Master: Gideon Singer

Newsletter: Chris Ostenstad
Please send your contributions to:
costenstad@shaw.ca

www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca

Vancouver Orchid Society since 1946

MARILYN H. S. LIGHT

Marilyn was born and raised in Montreal where she received her post-secondary education at Macdonald College, McGill University. She lived in Barbados, West Indies for seven years where she joined the Barbados Orchid Circle and began growing and studying orchids. She now grows and exhibits tropical orchids and has registered 21 of her own orchid hybrids. In 2000, she received the Silver Medal Award of the Ontario Horticultural Association, and in 2003 was made an honorary life member of Ottawa Horticultural Society. She received the Orchid Digest Diamond Award for service to Orchid Safari in 2008. One of her orchid hybrids (Lc. Mem. Evelyn Light) was featured on the \$1.15 value 2008 Canadian stamp.

Most of Marilyn's conservation work is in Gatineau Park, Québec where, in 1985, she began studying the introduced European Helleborine orchid, *Epipactis helleborine*. More recent investigations include the impact of visitors to the habitat of the Large Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* v. *pubescens*), the population dynamics of the Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*), and the assemblage of insect herbivores and their parasites associated with native orchids. Marilyn received the Anne Hanes Conservation Award from the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club for her on-going orchid conservation work in the Ottawa area, and the Edgar T. Wherry Award from the North American Rock Garden Society for her publications on native orchids.

She is the author of books, scientific papers and popular articles including *Growing Orchids in the Caribbean*. Marilyn has made presentations at many international meetings including the 1st Chinese Cymbidium Conference (Beijing), the International Orchid Conservation Congresses (Costa Rica, Czech Republic), the 3rd Andean Orchid Conference (Quito), and at World Orchid Conferences in Auckland, Kuala Lumpur, Miami, Vancouver, and Singapore. She chairs the North American Region and the Education Committees of the Orchid Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission. Marilyn is retired from the University of Ottawa where she had served as a Coordinator (Science, Engineering and Health Sciences) with the Professional Training Service for almost 20 years. Raising plants from seed is a passion and passing on the knowledge gained through experiments, a lifetime goal.



Cym. ensifolium 'Cai Hong'.

Upcoming Speakers & Events for 2012

January 23—Marilyn Light speaks at The Fraser Valley Orchid Society, George Preston Recreation Centre, 7:30pm “Getting to know Wild Orchids” a presentation on *Cypripedium parviflorum*, *C. reginae* and *Epipactis helleborine* on where they grow and why, their pollinators and other aspects of their ecology.

** Vancouver Orchid society members are welcome to attend this FVOS meeting so that they can benefit from both presentations of Marilyn Light

February 22—Bill Bischoff will present on “Hardy Orchids for West Coast Gardens”

March 24—25 Vancouver Orchid Society Annual Show

March 28—Calvin Wong of Tropical Gardens will present on *Neofinetia Falcata*

**Vancouver Orchid Society
2012 Show and Sale**

AOS Judged Show
Sales of popular & rare orchids
Local & international vendors
Floral Art Display

VanDusen
Botanical Garden
5251 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC



Saturday March 24th
9:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday March 25th
10:00am to 3:00pm

Admission \$7.00
Seniors & Students \$6.00

Preview party/advance sale Friday, March 23rd 7pm to 9:30pm
(Order your tickets in advance)

Visit our website www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca to print \$1 discount coupon

**Clip a coupon and
bring a friend !**

Visit our website
www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca
and download a \$1 off admission coupon
to the show



Happy New Year to all my fellow orchid lovers,

Although it has been many weeks since the Christmas social, I want to thank all those wonderful helpers that made the evening a success!!! There were many wonderful auction items donated, and the proceeds from the sale of all those gifts helped the society to keep up with the yearly expenses. I think that the show table allowed Society members to showcase their orchids and, without this display we would be 3 months without having an opportunity to see what is blooming in everyone's collection.

The beginning of a New Year makes one reflect on the future. I keep thinking about the future of the Vancouver Orchid Society, and how it can attract new members. Clearly the beauty of orchids is the first reason to consider joining an Orchid Society. But what do those budding enthusiasts seek most from an Orchid Society? The opportunity to see more orchids? Educational opportunities to learn to grow their orchids? A place where more exotic orchids can be purchased? And what are the reasons to remain part of the Orchid Society, after the first few contacts? These questions are important as we ponder the future growth of the Society. I am always looking for feedback from new and old members on this topic of concern. Buttonhole me at a meeting, or email me with your thoughts (margaretprat@shaw.ca)

The more pressing order of business is preparing for our Annual show, which will be held March 24-25, with preview night being March 23. We are again holding the show at the Van Dusen gardens, which is a nice central location. As construction has been completed at Van Dusen, we can only hope that this will work in our favour. More importantly, we need to figure out how to get orchid enthusiasts to attend our show. Many, many people like to view exotic orchids, even if they do not grow them (or have no intention of ever growing them). Photographers are a prime example of individuals who love to look at (and photograph) orchids. And many, many people would like to attend our show, but for various reasons are busy that weekend. So we need to target our message to as many potential visitors as possible, with a limited budget for advertising! Again, all society members can contribute to the effort of reaching our audience. After all the volunteer hours to organize the show, it would be a shame not to maximize attendance!

In closing, I just want to share that our January speaker, Marilyn Light, comes with a solid reputation for being very good at sharing her knowledge about orchids. If you have anyone in your circle of friends who is considering becoming a member, this might be a good time to introduce them to the Vancouver Orchid Society.

Happy orchid growing, and may your orchids prosper in the New Year,

Margaret Prat

1st Vice President - Speakers

November Show Table

**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



Flower Quality,
BLC Mount Anderson "Genevieve" AM/AOS
Grower: Eugene Banziger



Plant Culture,
Paph henryanum 'Klauss Michaelis' FCC/AOS
Grower: Carla Bishoff



Plant Culture, Paph milmanii
Grower: Don Harquail

Every month show off your Orchids at our meeting!

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

We would love to include you.....

No experience is necessary !



Plant Culture,
Epigonium nakaharari 'Charlotte' HCC/AOS
Grower: Rob Elvidge



Flower Quality, Pot Lisa Taylor Gallis 'Nora'
Grower: Neil Yates



Unusual Species, *Rodriguesia lima*
Grower: Carla Bischoff



Plant Culture, Den Big Alex x *Alexandrae*
Grower: Carla Bischoff



Plant Culture, Flower Quality
Paph Raisin Jack Grower: Don Harquail



Flower Quality; Onc Moon Shadow ‘ Tiger Tail’

Grower: Don Harquail



Plant Culture, SLC Jungle Beau

Grower: Don Harquail

Upcoming Thailand Order

Nora will be putting in an order to Thailand at the end of January. If anyone is interested in purchasing some plants, e-mail her for the list. There is a large selection of species as well as inexpensive hybrids. Nora: 605-708-4696 or wlg@pacificcoast.net

Needing some Mounts for Orchids ?

Edward Lee is able to give a group discount if there is interest in an order of tree fern slabs or shredded tree fern. The slabs are an excellent support for epiphytes (mounted). E-mail Nora at wlg@pacificcoast.net if you are interested.

Collector's Item: *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum* Kraenzl



The beautiful flowers of *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum* range in color from deep fuchsia to soft pink.

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum is one of our favorite orchids because of ease of growth and the showy display it puts on every Christmas. Even better than that, it follows that December blooming with a slightly lesser one 6-8 weeks after that and can push flushes of flowers throughout the year. Flower color ranges from intense purple-violet to soft pink. Long known as *Dendrobium miyakei* Schltr., the species is a member of the Pedilonum section of *Dendrobium* which to this grower's mind, does not have any bad orchids. The Pedilonum section has many showy orchids in a rainbow of colors and wide range of temperature tolerances to suit any grower's conditions. See the Orchids AtoZ section of this website for other species. *Pedilonum* comes from the Greek word *pedilon* which means slipper or shoe. This refers to the long mentum, or chinlike projection, formed by the joining of the sepals. There was much confusion in the section, with species being known by several different names, until Dr. Elizabeth Dauncey's 1994 thesis which corrected much of the synonymy. There are about 47 species in the section with the center of distribution being Papua New Guinea.

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum is a lowland species found in a restricted range of southern Taiwan and Batan island in the northern Philippines. It reportedly has been seen growing as an epiphyte on branches of *Ficus retusa*. This fig tree is a popular subject for Bonsai.

Plants of *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum* can be tall, up to 3 feet (.9m) or more, but they are space efficient horizontally. In other words, they do not take up much bench space, or more correctly, can be made to not take up much space. The Grand Champion at the 2007 Tokyo Dome show was a meticulously staked *Den. goldschmidtianum* that was considerably taller than the above measurement. These are orchids that typically bloom off of deciduous second-year canes, although some related species will continue flowering from old canes until they shrivel away to nothing. One of the most frequent questions I am asked is "can I cut the old canes off?". You don't need to if they are still firm. Leave them be, they just may bloom again!

Although growth occurs all year, the main flush begins in the spring and continues through summer. New canes emerge upright and stay erect until the weight of the leaves begins to give them a lax attitude. Once the leaves drop in the fall the canes will display a nice arching effect. We like to keep plants tied upright until we see bud development. This keeps them confined to a space efficient footprint. When we untie them for flowering the plants become a nicely arched full plant.

The following culture suggestions are based on our experience growing plants in South Florida. Our warm and breezy outdoor growing conditions are perfect for optimum growth. These recommendations also apply to northern temperate growers but you will likely see less vigorous results. *Den. goldschmidtianum* can be grown like vandas or catasetums. Give them plenty of light, water and nutrients when in active growth, which is spring through fall. If you are growing orchids in a cool, low-light northern greenhouse or window-sill you will want to moderate this regimen a bit because growth will be lessened by your conditions. If you can summer plants outdoors then by all means, do so. Small plants, 5-6 live canes under 12" tall, can be grown in plastic pots of your favorite potting mix. Keep plants in a bright spot and keep them evenly moist until autumn.



Fertilize once a week while in growth. When temperatures begin to cool in the autumn, for us here in Florida that is around Thanksgiving but will probably be earlier in the northern tier of states, start to hold back water. Do not give plants any water unless canes begin to look excessively shriveled. When you feel them they should be firm. Give plants water only if the canes begin to really shrivel. DO NOT give plants any fertilizer at this time. In mid winter buds should appear. After they are halfway developed you may resume watering but just enough to keep the media barely damp. In other words, plants are not in growth in the winter so their water needs are less. Just give them enough water to mitigate the stress of flower production. Resume normal watering in the spring when temperatures begin to warm and days lengthen.

If you have the right conditions and end up with a large 20-cane plant after a few years you may want to discard the conventional wisdom regarding underpotting dendrobiums. We grow this and related species in 6-10 inch baskets of sphagnum moss and find that the root system can fill a basket and "eat" the moss in a year or so. A vigorous plant of *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum* can produce an extensive system of fine roots in a very short time if given the right growing conditions.

If you long for this species but feel your conditions may be too cool, too shady or too small, consider other species in the Pedilonum and closely related Calypetrochilum and Calcarifera sections of *Dendrobium*. There are many excellent cooler growing and miniature orchids such as *Dendrobium alaticaulinum*, *Den. dichaeoides*, *Den. fulgidum*, *Den. lawesii*, and the beautiful *Den. victoria-reginae*. Be sure to see the April issue of Orchids magazine for a survey of the Pedilonum section of *Dendrobium*.

References

Cootes, Jim. 2001. *The Orchids of the Philippines*. Timber Press.

Lavarack, B, Harris W., Stocker, G. 2000. *Dendrobium and its Relatives*. Timber Press.

Greg Allikas, February 2009

Taken from AOS website



Download your \$1 off coupon on the web, or clip it from the newsletter.

If you can please take a show poster or two and hang them up in your Neighbourhood garden shop, community centers, churches etc.

Let's make the 2012 Show really successful !

	\$1.00 OFF Admission Coupon
	Limit one coupon per person
	Vancouver Orchid Society
	2012 Show & Sale
	VanDusen Botanical Garden 5251 Oak Street Vancouver, BC
	Saturday March 24th 9:00 am to 5:00pm Sunday March 25th 10:00am to 3:00pm
Admission \$7.00 Seniors & Students \$6.00 (save \$1.00 off with this coupon)	