

# Orchidiflora

VOS Newsletter

**Volume 7** : **Issue 5**

February

## President's Message

Hopefully everyone has had their fill of snow this winter. I sure have. As for you snowbirds, lucky you getting sun elsewhere! Today, this lazy Sunday, was just balmy enough to take the dog to the beach for some fun in the sun.

As we're turning the corner on the season's cold weather, fast approaching is orchid show season! Only a few weeks away are the Victoria show, and, of course, our show nearing the end of March. After this weekend's GardenWorks event, we'll hopefully generate some more interest in our show. I am eager to see the blooms and plants at these shows. If you can volunteer, we'd appreciate your support to pull off a successful show for this year. It's a great way to get to know each other too.

Also, I'm sure everyone is salivating over the orchid catalogues for the visiting vendors to add those hard-to-find orchids to your collections.

We also have some great culture classes and some renowned speakers all set for this year and next...some will have some great plants available too. We're settling into a great year.

In the meantime, dote on your current orchids and keep warm out there.

We're  
settling  
into a great  
year.

Ryan Young

# Vancouver Orchid Society

JANUARY 25, 2017

Vandusen Floral Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm, and chaired by Ryan Young.

## Minutes

In the absence of the secretary, Evelyn Nash kindly stepped forward to take minutes.

## President's Report

Ryan reminded members that volunteers will be needed to help with the GardenWorks Orchid event that is on February 11th and 12th.

He also asked for volunteers for the March Annual Show and Sale. Set up and the Preview Party will be Friday, March 24th and the show will be on the 25th and 26th. Sign-up sheets were at the front of the room and will also be at the next meeting. People can sign up at the meeting or contact Ingrid Pike (Ingrid.pike@outlook.com). We can't have a show without your help! As well as the usual duties, some of the vendors (such as Ecuagenera) will be needing helpers.

## Membership Report

Natasha Charif welcomed the new members who were present.

## Facebook

Visit the VOS Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/VancouverOrchidSociety](http://www.facebook.com/VancouverOrchidSociety)  
You don't have to belong to Facebook to view the page, where we post photos and current information. Please send contributions to Jennifer Pell:  
VOS\_Secretary@outlook.com

## Culture Class

Culture Class is generally held on the second Monday of each month. In 2018, there will be three statutory holidays on the 2nd Monday of the month. A vote was put to the membership to change the day for culture class to the 2nd Tuesday of the month starting in 2018. The vote was passed.

## Show Table Awards

Eight beautiful plants were given awards this month.

## Raffle

The Raffle Committee thanks all those who contributed to the raffle.

## Speaker

Terry Groszeibl, of Forestview Gardens gave an enlightening talk on artificial lighting for your growspace.

2  
M I N U T E S

## Speaker Series

8:30-9:30pm Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens

### February 22

#### *Vanda falcata and Its Hybrids*

Ryan Young, President, VOS

### March 22

#### *Growing Cypripediums*

Shawn Hillis, Garden slippers

pre-orders at [www.gardenslippers.com](http://www.gardenslippers.com)

### April 26

TBA

### May 24

#### *Topic to be determined*

Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids (USA)

pre-orders at [www.pipingrockorchids.com](http://www.pipingrockorchids.com)

### June 28

TBA

### September 27

#### *Topic to be determined*

Mr Ejiri (Japan), Sulawesi Orchids

### October 25

TBA

## Culture Class

6:30-8:30pm Cedar room, VanDusen Gardens

MEMBERS ONLY

### February 13

#### *Bulbophyllum*

Patrick Milligen

### March 13

#### *Repotting*

Natasha Charif

### April 10

#### *Plants for Small Spaces*

Margaret Prat

### May 8

#### *Water PH, Nutrition and Fertilization*

Ryan Young

### June 12

#### *Mounting*

Daniel Kwok

## Upcoming Events

### January 14

#### Noon. Every second Saturday of the month.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST JUDGING CENTER (PNWJC)

Sea Island Community Center, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond, BC

Everyone is welcome to bring their orchids for consideration by the American Orchid Society judges. Why attend? This is an opportunity to see more orchids, and many orchids of award quality, in a small, friendly atmosphere.

## Shows and Sales

### March 4-5, 2017

#### *Spring Show & Sale*

THE VICTORIA ORCHID SOCIETY

Our Lady of Fatima Hall

Victoria, BC

<http://victoriaorchidsociety.com/shows.html>

### March 24, 2017

#### *VOS Annual Show and Sale Set Up and Preview Party*

VANCOUVER ORCHID SOCIETY

Floral Hall, Vandusen Gardens

### March 25-26, 2017

#### *VOS Annual Show and Sale*

VANCOUVER ORCHID SOCIETY

Floral Hall, Vandusen Gardens

If you'd like information of sales further afield, check out this Facebook Group:

[www.facebook.com/groups/1608642239350212/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1608642239350212/)



## Canadian Orchid Congress & the Canada Wide Science Fair

The Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) will sponsor an annual Special Award to senior students participating in the Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) for a research project on the biology and/or conservation of orchids with priority given to native Canadian orchid research. Winners will produce a webinar to be publicized on the COC website, with the goal to share the research to all of our COC members. Projects will be sustained with expertise in the form of educational and motivating webinars and a network of mentoring organizations across Canada.

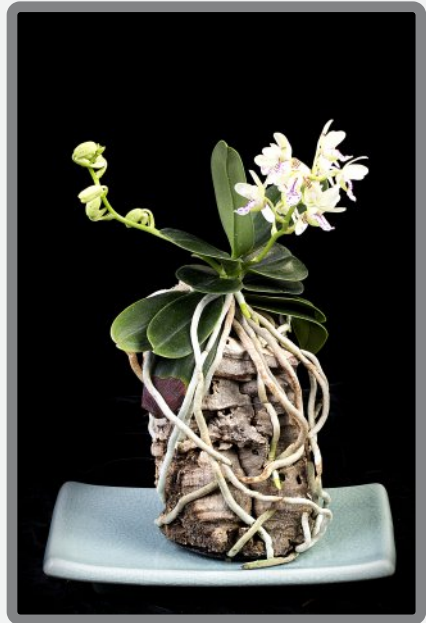
More information will be made available shortly to all member societies including details about the program and how you can get involved. Stay tuned!

# VANCOUVER ORCHID SOCIETY

JANUARY 25, 2017



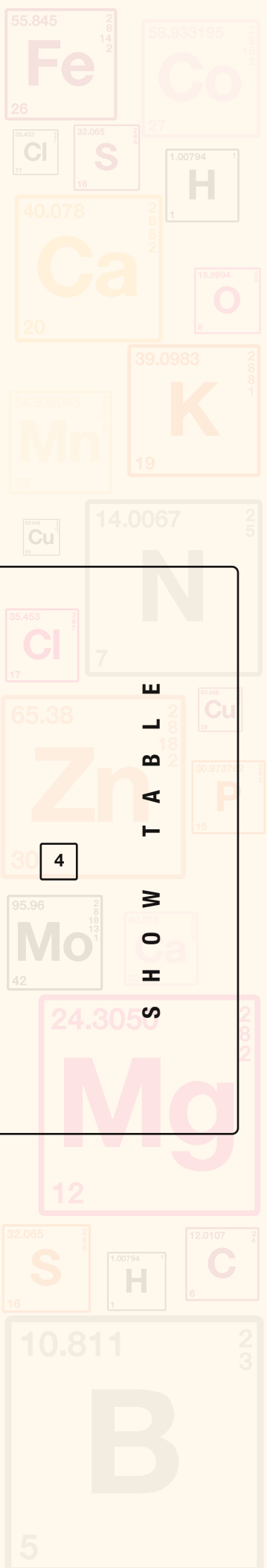
**Haraella retrocalla**  
Unusual Species, Species  
Exhibitor: Barbara Cable



**Sedirea japonica**  
Flower Quality, Plant Culture, Display  
Exhibitor: Daniel Kwok



**Vanda Dr. Anek x Katsaulea**  
Flower Quality, Plant Culture  
Exhibitor: Hazel Stewart





**Oeceoclades roseovariegata**  
Unusual species  
Exhibitor: Neil Yates



**Phaius graeffei**  
Hybrid, Plant culture  
Exhibitor: Margaret Nakahara



**Laeliocattleya Secret Love**  
Flower Quality, Plant Culture  
Exhibitor: Melanie Gallacher



**Oncidium nebulosum**  
Unusual Species  
Exhibitor: Collis Wilson

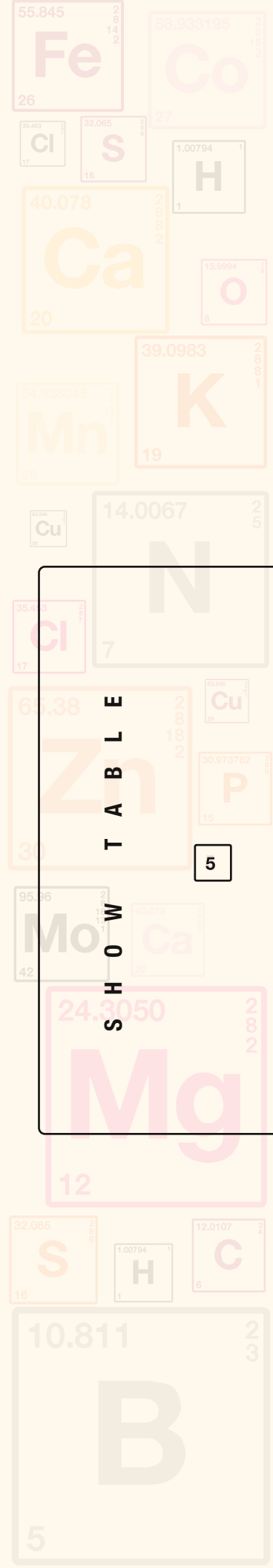


**Lycaste Macrophylla Albax Shoalhaven**  
Hybrid, Flower Quality, Plant Culture  
Exhibitor: Richard Pearson

**Judges**  
Grant Rampton  
Patrick Milligen  
Ingrid Pike

**Photographer**

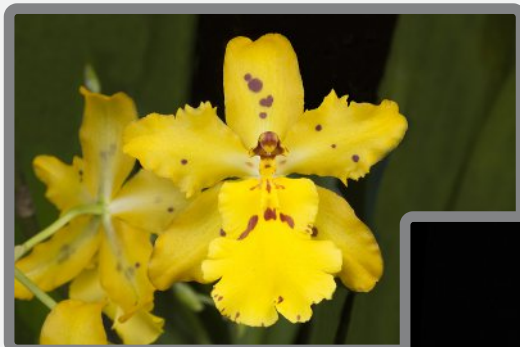
Judith Higham  
Higham@shaw.ca  
If you would like a picture of your plant, please email Judy and she will gladly send you the file.



# A O S A W A R D S

JANUARY 14, 2017

At the AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center-Richmond's monthly judging on January 14, 2017, the following AOS award was granted (please note that all awards are considered provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchid Plus):



**Oncidium Tiger Hambühren 'Dave' AM/AOS**  
(*Oncidium tigrinum* x *Oncidium Goldrausch*)  
80 pts  
Exhibitor: Poul Hansen

## Judges

Poul Hansen  
Abu Salleh  
Calvin Wong  
Betty Berthiaume  
Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander  
Russ Volker  
Ryan Young (Probationer)  
John Taylor (Student)

## Photographer

Judith Higham  
Higham@shaw.ca

A O S J U D G I N G

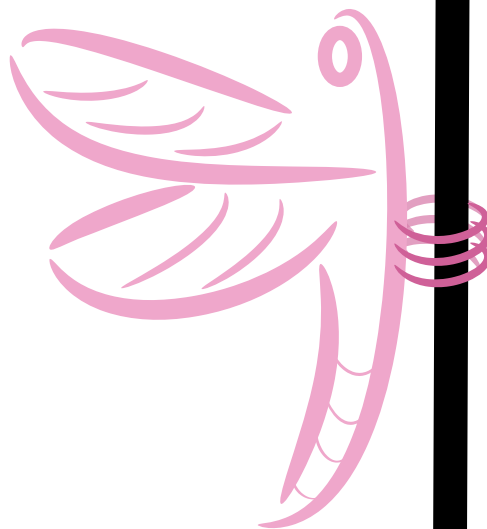
# Volunteers Needed!

## VOS March Show and Sale

March 24–26, 2017

Please contact Ingrid Pike [ingrid.pike@outlook.com](mailto:ingrid.pike@outlook.com) or sign up at one of our upcoming meetings.

Don't forget—it's with your help that our society flourishes!



### Volunteer/Committees

#### Membership Committee

Grant Rampton  
Natasha Charif

#### Away Show Coordinator

Ingrid Pike

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Vacant

#### Prize Draws

Chuck & Audrey Belotte  
Anne Duranceau

#### Kitchen

Maureen Burke  
Donna Leung

#### BCCoGC Rep

Radina Jevdevic

#### Library

Monica Stefansson

#### COC/AOS Rep

Calvin Wong

#### Webmaster

Jennifer Pell

#### VOS March Show and Sale Chairperson

Wayne Riggs

#### VOS March Show and Sale Co-Chair

Evelyn Nash

#### Newsletter

Elissa Schmidt

#### Submission Deadline

The first of each month.  
Anything submitted after the first will appear in the following month's newsletter.  
Please send contributions to:  
[newsletter4vos@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter4vos@gmail.com)

### Executive/Board of Directors

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Ryan Young

#### 1st VP (speakers)

Margaret Prat

#### 2nd VP (culture class)

Natasha Charif

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Jennifer Pell

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Judy Buttress

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Daniel Kwok

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Ingrid Pike

#### Director

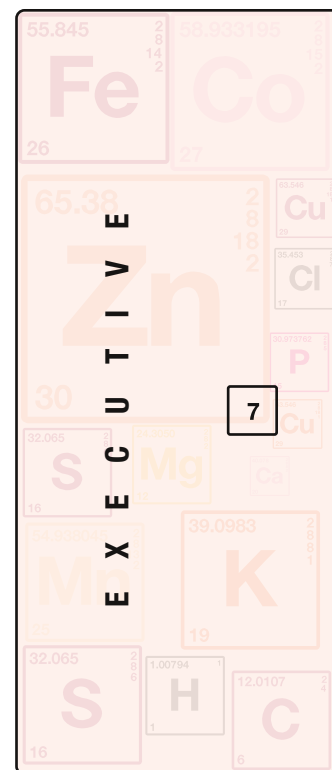
Grant Rampton

#### Director

Keith Willet

#### Director

Eugene Banziger



### Mailing Address

Vancouver Orchid Society  
PO BOX 42025 Marpole RPO  
Vancouver, BC V6P 6S6

### Website

[www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca](http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca)

## GENUS OF THE MONTH

# Extreme Bulbophyllums

BY THOMAS MIRENDA

WITH MORE THAN 2,000 species, and even more being discovered every year, *Bulbophyllum* is a huge genus, perhaps the largest in the family. The only plant genus with more described species at present is the non-orchidaceous genus *Astragalus*. Part of the reason for this astonishing number of species is the fact that *Bulbophyllum* is circumtropical, occurring in tropical regions of each continent. This suggests the genus is ancient. But in addition, members of this genus have wandered down some unusual evolutionary pathways that have resulted in extreme biodiversity. Their floristic configurations range from truly beautiful, to the unearthly bizarre, to the unquestionably hideous. Their oddity, combined with the likelihood of an offensive odor means, by colossal understatement, they are not for everyone, teenage boys excluded. However, no one can deny that they are extremely interesting and fun.



Thomas Mirenda

We have been collecting bulbophyllums here at the Smithsonian since the 1970s and have amassed a pretty astonishing array of these fascinating plants. Every species

is wonderful in its own peculiar way but some stand out as extraordinary. While beauty is in the eye of the beholder, I think that recommending bulbophyllums to other orchidists is more about their “wow factor” than anything else. So here are some of the bulbos that have wowed me over the years. Some species are big, some small, some monstrous; others stinky, sweet, or lacking entirely in fragrance, but never boring. Here is a crash course on 10 of the craziest and coolest species in this most diverse orchid genus. I have ranked them from 1 to 10 in terms of my perceived wow factor. You may disagree with my order, or feel I have left out something supercool. I look forward to you educating me on the best, most extreme, bulbophyllums I have missed.

**NUMBER 10** *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum*, a hot-growing lowland epiphyte from humid tropical forests in Sumatra, Sulawesi, the Moluccas and New Guinea; this species, as its name implies,



JEA SHANG PHOTOGRAPHY



ERIC HUNT



has very large flowers of very strange color and form. The large, up to 6-inch (18-cm) sepals curve over and protect the smaller, intricate petals and reproductive structures in the column. A mid-sized plant that is always impressive when in bloom, its fragrance is only vaguely offensive, making it an excellent conversation piece and worthy of any madman's orchid collection.

**NUMBER 9** *Bulbophyllum barbigerum* is widespread across the coastal western portion of Africa. It bears a distinctly bizarre raceme of little flowers with highly mobile bearded lips that move with the slightest breeze, seemingly having a life of their own. This is an attention-getting device to attract pollinators to the fetid-smelling flowers. The plant itself is a very cute miniature with plump, somewhat flattened, glossy, clustered pseudobulbs and a creeping habit suitable for both pots and mounted culture. In the wild it prefers mossy tree trunks at middle elevations and may like to be slightly wetter than other bulbophyllums. Anecdotally, it is said that in the 1700s, this plant was thought to be a missing link between plant and animal due to its furry mobile labellum.

**NUMBER 8** *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* has been a popular and much-admired plant for over a century and is named for a British banking family. Almost any plant bearing the Rothschild name seems to connote opulence. Hailing from southern Yunnan Province of China; northeastern India, including Assam; and Myanmar (Burma), this colorful and impressive species bears several flowers in a false umbel with its sepals conjoined into what looks like one long petal. This is typical of section Cirrhopetalum, which was not too long ago considered a segregate genus. Because it is so impressive, it has sired many superb hybrids over the years, which have been confused with the species in many collections. Best grown in a basket or mount due to its lax inflorescences and long trailing flowers, it can bloom in great profusion and well-flowered plants are a spectacle to behold. Though a beautiful sight, you should not get too close for olfactory considerations. Consider yourself warned.

**NUMBER 7** *Bulbophyllum fritillariflorum* is a wondrously strange little plant from Papua, New Guinea, that forms a mat on horizontal tree branches. It is related to the aforementioned *Bulb. grandiflorum* and is a member of the same section, Hyalosema. The odd, lizard-like flowers barely open and arise regularly



CRAIG PLAIN

3



JIM TEAR

4



GREG ALLIKAS

5

- [1] *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum* 'Elim', AM/AOS has large flowers that look like they belong on another world.
- [2] The wonderfully fringed lip of *Bulbophyllum barbigerum* drives its fly pollinators wild.
- [3] *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* 'Windy Hill', AM/AOS. Well flowered specimens of this species are breathtaking.
- [4] *Bulbophyllum fritillariflorum* 'Belgian Lace', AM/AOS. The flowers of this species never open more than this.
- [5] *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* 'Springwater', HCC/AOS. These huge flowers have a fragrance that some liken to cat urine while others perceive a more fetid odor.

from midpoints on the creeping rhizome. Capable of blooming at almost any time of year, the flowers have a pattern and color reminiscent of the checkerboard patterns of *Fritillaria meleagris*, a bulbous plant many of us use in rock gardens. Probably best on a raft or mount and given daily watering due to its natural preferences, *Bulb. fritillariflorum* is a delight to grow and a great bloomer once established.

NUMBER 6 *Bulbophyllum nitidum* is a personal favorite of mine that I find extremely appealing. Once segregated into the genus *Hapalochilus* due to the fact that its lip is immobile, it has been determined to fall well within the genus *Bulbophyllum*. A miniature plant from steamy, lowland areas of New Guinea, it grows into delightful clumpy plants with surprisingly large, stunning and really extraordinary flowers. Long ribbony red-streaked sepals spread in a triangle while the lip juts out suggestively, a landing platform for its pollinator. One benefit of growing *Bulb. nitidum* (unless you are a teenage boy) is that I have never been able to detect a foul fragrance in this species.

NUMBER 5 *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* cannot make the same claim, as it stinks to high heaven and I have been known to torture many a collection visitor with its fetid odor. Its bouncing lip resembles the furry and bloody limb of a mouse that might have been dismembered by a hungry bird of prey. Even so, this flower is one of the most magnificent of orchids. Really good forms can be 14 inches (35.6 cm) from tip to tip. If that weren't enough, it produces multiple successive flowers over several months, though the later flowers do seem to be somewhat smaller. Rather easy to grow in a warm or intermediate, humid greenhouse, it may not be the best plant to grow in the house for fairly obvious reasons.

NUMBER 4 *Bulbophyllum purpleorachis* is one of the most brazenly bizarre orchids I can think of, with thick and extremely succulent angular pseudobulbs and a sturdy constitution, this hot-growing oddity comes to us from central Africa. Easy to grow but sometimes shy to bloom, this species' dusky inflorescences resemble cobras ready to strike. The flowers may not be immediately obvious as they appear along the sides of a flattened rachis and are fairly small. Still, the species is hard to beat for pure wow factor. We grow them in large shallow pots to accommodate their creeping rhizomes. Somewhat sinister, I



6



7



[6] *Bulbophyllum nitidum*.

[7] An up-close and personal picture of *Bulbophyllum fascinator*. *Bulbophyllum fascinator* 'Hay Liong Gan', AM/AOS, photographed by Arthur Pinkers, illustrates how long these flowers can be.

[8] *Bulbophyllum purpureorachis* 'Haley Suzanne', CCE/AOS, photographed by Charles Marden Fitch, is a wonderful example of how strangely beautiful this African species can be. The inset, photographed by Eric Hunt, gives a clear view of the tiny flowers.

would not want to meet it in a dark alley, but in a greenhouse it is a true marvel.

NUMBER 3 *Bulbophyllum fascinator* may seem an odd choice this high up on the list, but for me it is truly, well, fascinating! The blooms are just incredible: large, variable and rather long-lasting for a bulbophyllum. Most astonishingly, though, it is festooned with superb feathery ornaments that wiggle with the slightest air movement. They are fantastically bizarre when observed up close and do not stink too terribly badly when you do so.

NUMBER 2 *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* is an extraordinary giant plant that gets its name for its superficial resemblance of the plants to those of the completely unrelated *Phalaenopsis gigantea*. This species grows in an almost cave-like circumstance and needs moist, shady humid conditions to thrive. Beware: this species will grow into a monster that will eat your greenhouse space and possibly your cat. The premier species in the section Macrobulbon, this species does have massive pseudobulbs and long, floppy pendant leaves. Lynn Cook and Troy Ray recently donated a magnificent specimen known as Bucky to us that they had cultivated for decades. They received a Certificate of Cultural Excellence for it some years ago and it is even bigger now than it was when awarded. I threw out my back trying to hang the spectacular thing in the greenhouse. Another famous reeker, we expect that the next time it blooms it will rival the fame of *Amorphophallus titanum*, otherwise known as the corpse flower, and we are hoping for lines around the block once it does.

NUMBER 1 *Bulbophyllum longissimum* is my all-time favorite in the genus. I find it quite remarkable in that it has such incredibly long fused sepals. The flowers are a lovely creamy white with red-lavender stripes along their entire length and are quite attractive. While it was a popular plant in cultivation many decades ago, it has been difficult to get until quite recently. Absolutely stunning when well-flowered, I am delighted to have a few fine forms of it here in the Smithsonian's collection. This species combines beauty, ease of culture, wow factor and pure spectacle in one fairly compact and attractive plant, and it is not too unpleasant to have around when in bloom, unlike certain of its sisters.

Yes, bulbophyllums show us some wonderful extremes. While these are some well-known and avidly cultivated species, there are hundreds more that



are totally worthy and extreme in their own special way. They have a beauty that may be missed by some, but not an orchid connoisseur like YOU!

— Thomas Mirenda is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution and an AOS accredited judge. 3000 Cedar Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22031 (email MirendaT@si.edu).

[9] *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* 'Crowntox Goliath' AM-CCE/AOS. The leaves are over 44 inches (112 cm) long on this specimen.

[10] *Bulbophyllum longissimum* 'Burmese Gold', AM/AOS. The flowers of this species are truly elegant and, at 13.4 inches (34 cm), exceptionally breathtaking. Photograph by Ernest Walters.



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