

# Orchiflora

Volume 5, Issue 4  
January 2015

## Announcements:

**Speaker Series:** 8:30-9:30 Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens

**January 28, 2015:** Terry Groszeibl "Paphiopedilums and their culture" Forestview Gardens. IMPORTANT: Terry will take pre-orders until January 27, visit website at <http://www.fvgardens.com/> and email your order to [info@fvgardens.com](mailto:info@fvgardens.com) or [cteggin@shaw.ca](mailto:cteggin@shaw.ca)

**February 25:** AOS judging explained: 5 AOS judges will do their evaluations before the audience; This outreach judging should help to demystify how orchid plants get awards. Bring your orchids to the monthly meeting as usual.

**March 25:** Calvin Wong will present on The 2015 Tokyo Dome Show. Calvin will share the stunning displays he encountered in February.

**April 22:** Alexey Tretyakov—Key Factors for Successful Growing on a Windowsill, Under Lights or in a Greenhouse

**May 27:** Patricia Harding, Topic to be announced

**June 24:** Roy Tokunaga from H&R (Hawaii), Topic to be announced

**Culture Class**, held in the Cedar room, VanDusen Gardens from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, all orchid related questions welcome - *culture class is a members' only benefit*

**February 9, 2015:** Specialty Displays of your orchids, led by Daniel Kwok. Mr. Kwok has just won an American Orchid Society Award for his display on a coral stone piece. At the monthly show table, he is known for his beautiful wood display pieces. Come learn from the expert!

**March 9, 2015:** Repotting your orchids - our ever popular hands on demonstration of repotting with a review of different potting materials and their merits.

## Upcoming Events

**February 14:** PNWJC judging

The 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 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. Small, friendly atmosphere.

## Upcoming Shows & Sales

**Feb 28 -March 1, 2015**

Mount Baker Orchid Society Show and sale  
Skagit Valley Gardens (retail store - regular retail hours)  
18923 Johnson Road  
Mount Vernon, Washington

**March 14-15, 2015**

Victoria Orchid Society Show and Sale  
Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk drive, Victoria  
(close to Commonwealth Pool)  
Saturday March 14: 9 am to 5 pm  
Sunday March 15: 11:30 am to 4:00 pm

**March 28-29, 2015**

Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale  
Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver  
Preview night March 27 at 7pm  
(pre-ordered tickets for Preview night)  
Saturday March 28: 9 am to 5 pm  
Sunday March 29: 10 am to 4 pm

**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**

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### *Message From The President:*

Dear Orchid Lovers,

We are at the beginning of a new calendar year, and I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We have had a very successful 2014, with a wonderful Christmas party that everyone seemed to enjoy. Thank you to all the volunteers for the set up and take down - it was a very smooth operation, and lots of people pitched in. The auction was very rewarding financially, and we hope that the purchases gave pleasure to the recipients. We will keep improving the auction with respect to quality of items offered and the timeline. Thank you again to our wonderful auctioneer, Stella Li, who did a great job.

I am impressed by the enthusiasm of our many new members, and the delight they take in seeing their orchids bloom. Keep coming to culture class, your flowering rate can only increase. Next month at culture class, we have our own member Daniel Kwok talking about his beautiful way of displaying his orchids: on wood, in lovely ceramic pots, on coral, etc. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn from an award winning member.

This coming February, we will help promote orchids at Gardenworks' Orchid Festival. Gardenworks is our show sponsor, and they are a natural fit for our society. We do need volunteers for this weekend at their 3 locations. Jennifer Pell is spearheading the coordination, please contact her to volunteer.

I began the New Year by visiting several greenhouses with a friend. It was a cloudy, overcast day, with lots of rain. It was great fun to see tropical orchids in bloom, while winter casts its gloom over the B.C. coast. I did learn that a greenhouse that has no obstruction (no house shading it, no trees nearby) and that gets consistent sun all day (yes, you must provide shading in the summer) does make a difference on growth. I saw thick fat *Dendrobium nobile* stems, totally covered with lots of buds of future flowers. Next summer/spring, I will be bringing my *Dendrobiums* out as early as possible and letting them have as much sun as they tolerate. The other lesson that I learned from my expedition was that the greenhouse growers fertilized a great deal more than I do - of course, they get more growth, and hence the plant is more likely to use the fertilizer. Also, because they are spraying from a large garden hose, there is a drenching that is hard to reproduce in a home environment, unless one brings the orchids to the sink. Our April speaker, an excellent grower living close to Nanaimo, Alexey Tretyakov, will address these issues with his choice of topic: "Key Factors for Successful Growing on Windowsill, Under Lights or in Greenhouse".

We must remember that growing orchids is a learning experience. Although we have all sent some orchids to orchid heaven, we do learn about what does work for our conditions with time.

On this note, Happy growing, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year,  
Margaret Prat, Past President



**Executive/Board of Directors**

President : vacant

1st VP: Eugene Banziger

2nd VP: Ryan Young

Secretary: Barbara Cable

Treasurer: Judy Buttress

Past President: Margaret Prat

Director 1 : Calvin Wong

Director 2 : Jennifer Fabre

Director 3 : Keith Willett

Director 4 : Grant Rampton

**Volunteer/Committees**

Bloedel Committee: Radina Jevdevic

Membership Committee: Patrick Milligen

Prize Draws: Margaret Elvidge

Kitchen: Marilyn Lew & Maureen Burke

BCCoGC Rep: Bill & Carla Bischoff

Library: Shohreh Alimoradi

COC/AOS Rep: vacant

Web Master: Terry Poree

**Mailing Address:**

PO BOX 42025, Marpole PRO,

Vancouver, BC, V6P 6S6

Newsletter: Holly Martin

**Please send your contributions to:**

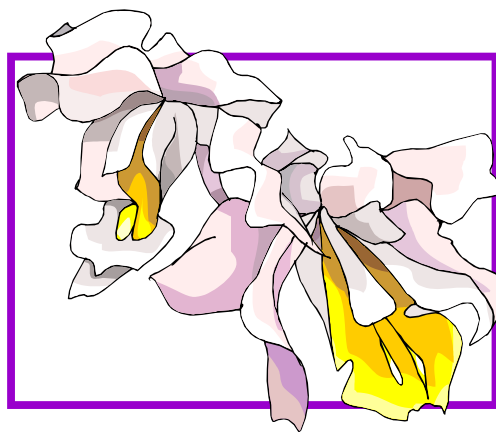
neesabelle@hotmail.com

**www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca**

**Please take the survey on the Canadian Orchid Congress.** This survey are for all VOS members, as we are an affiliated society - each year, we give a sum based on our membership. Calvin Wong is the President of the COC. Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H7V3Y3F>

Also, visit the COC website, there is much to learn there. For anyone interested in fragrant orchids, there is an exhaustive list of the latter. Plus, all those wonderful culture sheets.

**Volunteers needed for the Garden Works annual Orchid Festival.**

Saturday February 7 and Sunday February 8, 11 am to 3 pm.

12 volunteers are needed – there will be 2 shifts per day (11 am to 1 pm and 1pm to 3 pm) at each of the 3 Garden Works Stores (Burnaby - Lougheed, North Vancouver and Burnaby - Mandeville on Marine Drive).

As a volunteer you will be there to answer questions, promote interest in orchids (and the Vancouver Orchid Society) and give a brief presentation on an Introduction to Choosing and Growing Orchids.

If you are available to volunteer, please contact me, Jennifer Pell ([jennifer.pell@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.pell@gmail.com)) and let me know if you have a preference as to time or store.

Thanks in advance to all who participate!



# Christmas Party & Auction

## 26 November 2014



All Christmas Party  
Photos taken by Ed  
Higham.





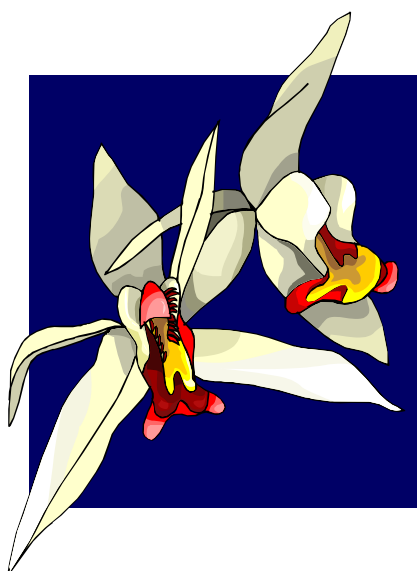
## **Christmas Party & Auction**

### **26 November 2014 (cont'd)**





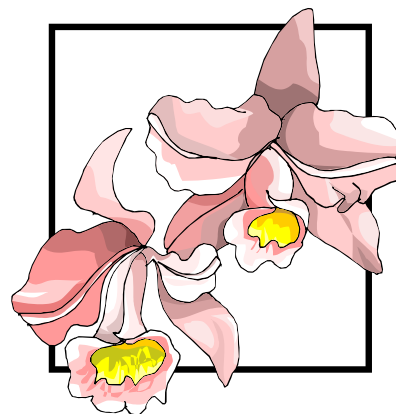
## Christmas Party & Auction 26 November 2014 (cont'd)





## **Christmas Party & Auction**

### **26 November 2014 (cont'd)**







## Victoria Orchid Society

Presents, in affiliation with the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island,

# SPRING ORCHID SHOW & SALE

### *High on Orchids*

March 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

At

Our Lady of Fatima Hall

4635 Elk Lake Road, Victoria BC

(across from the Commonwealth Pool)

We are pleased to invite you to join us at our American Orchid Society sanctioned orchid show and plant sale. This year we have once again partnered with Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island, a group helping children and their families across Vancouver Island. Parking at the show site is very easy and is free. The building is wheelchair accessible.

Admission to show and sale is \$7.00 per person, \$6.00 for seniors and students. Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult.

*Plant registration and set up will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please be advised that late entrees will not be eligible for ribbon judging.*

On Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, *Trophy and Ribbon judging* will occur from 1:00 p.m. until finished

The Reception and Awards Ceremony will be on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m.

On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, *AOS judging* will be in progress from 1:00 p.m. until finished

*Sales for reception attendees:* Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

*Public hours of sales:* Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Take down of Exhibition and Sale items will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>.*



# How Santa Helped Illuminate Me!

**By Margaret Prat**

I have resisted for the longest time buying a light meter. I always figured that my plants told me when there was insufficient light or too much light. Of course, I would have to wait to see the deleterious effect on my plants (either poor growth from insufficient light or rapidly yellowing leaves from too much light). But I had pored over so many books, that I felt that I understood the many principles involved in “eyeballing” how much light my plants were getting. It is also hard to judge the quality of light, i.e. whether my plants were getting the right mix in the full spectrum of light.

My better half decided to take the guesswork out of the light intensity issue, by gifting me a digital luxometer for Christmas. This little device measures the light intensity at one given spot, and gives me a reading in lux (a rough conversion is that 10 lux is about 1 footcandle). My device cannot tell me what parts of the light spectrum are contributing to the light intensity being measured, but for comparative purposes (on light intensity) it is helpful.

Like a child in a candy store, I proceeded to measure the light intensity at various spots in my house, on December 26th, 2014 on a grey winter Vancouver day. It was quite revealing. This was a cloudy day, but with a fairly bright illumination, although the day had begun as much darker. I thought I would share some of the readings in my own house.

On the South side of the house, I have a bank of windows that extend up 10 feet (the ceiling is 12 ft high in that room) and cover almost the entire part of the south wall of a living area (attached picture).





# How Santa Helped Illuminate Me!

**By Margaret Prat**

At 9 am, when it was still very dark outside, at the window: 100 lux

As the day got brighter, here are some more readings, from the South bank of windows at noon: on left side (no vegetation shading this side)

at the window: 1000 lux

one metre away from window: 400 lux

three metres away from window: 100 lux

on the right side (more vegetation this side, and fog in the window) at the window: 600 lux

one metre away from window: 200 lux

In my entrance way, I have a large skylight illuminating this area. The skylight is situated about 14 feet from the floor, and on the North side of the house. I have a display area for my plants on a shelf that is about 6 feet below the skylight. Here some readings:

at noon, on the brighter side of the display area: 700 lux

on the darker side of the display area: 400 lux

On the North side of the house, I have two large windows, shaded by a pergola. The readings there:

at the window, no screen side: 500 lux

at the window, screen side: 300 lux

1 metre away from North window: 100 lux

I can assure you that none of the above readings would provide enough light for decent growth, except maybe for the jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor* which requires very little light (and if you give it too much light, it goes pale, and is unattractive). So I proceeded down to my grow area (my "grow op" as I like to call it fondly) - see attached picture.





# How Santa Helped Illuminate Me!

**By Margaret Prat**

This is a basement room which has a skylight (sandwiched between 2 parts of the house), where I have installed a 400 watt metal halide light (presently 2 year old bulb), a 200 watt fluorescent full spectrum light (2 year old bulb), and all new T5's for my shelf grown plants (Masdevallias, Paphiopedilums, Miltonias, and various other genera). Here are the readings:

Shelf with 2 tubes of 3 ft long T5's, at 9 inches: 6,500 lux

Under 400 watt metal halide (MH) light, 2 feet below: 15,000 lux

Under 200 watt fluorescent, 2 feet below: 9,800 lux

3 feet below: 8,200 lux (note that this spot also receives light from the 400 Watt MH fixture)

4 feet away: 2,800 lux (actually diagonal to the 200 watt bulb, with no contamination from the MH fixture)

My little investigation has helped to confirm what I had read previously, but it certainly has made it much more crystal clear in my mind. Let me summarize some of the important principles:

1. It can get very dark in Vancouver in winter (no surprise here!) - 100 lux on a south window is about 10 footcandle, barely enough to read a book
2. Distance from a window is very important, and it is not a linear function for light intensity. Three metres away from the South window I am only getting 100 lux, again very little light, whereas right at the window I am getting 1000 lux, and 2 metres away I have 400 lux.
3. Vegetation matters: on the right side of those bank of South windows, the vegetation is providing a significant screen for light, and it is the reason I can grow Phalaenopsis there even in the height of summer - they only get the morning direct light, after which the trees screen the sun's rays from the south
4. Other barriers to light should be considered: dirt on your windows (yes they affect the intensity), a broken seal on a double glazed window (the fog inside will deflect light), a screen - they can all reduce significantly how much light your plants are receiving. In my case, on the North side window, the screened half of the window got almost 50% less light than the "no screen" side (300 lux versus 500 lux).
5. Not surprisingly, distance from an artificial light source also matters - hence the advice to search out more or less light for your orchids, depending on how they respond. In my grow op area, with the skylight and the diverse artificial light sources, I have high and low illumination areas. I have learned what works best for which orchids. Even one or two feet make a big difference, and when it comes to light intensity under the fluorescent tubes, inches can really affect growth. And for those who like to Phragmipedium hybrids, remember that if they have a bessae parent, they like less, rather than more, light (somewhat akin to most Phalaenopsis)

None of the above addresses the quality of light issue. I can now understand why some people like to grow in greenhouses, because then you are sure that you are getting the full spectrum that the sun can offer. On the other hand, the sun can be too powerful at times, and greenhouse growers have to resort to shading.

I hope this brief essay has helped any orchid grower who has struggled to understand how much light is good for a given orchid. The wisest is to look up the light that your particular orchid receives naturally in nature, and try to duplicate this. Often, this is still imprecise, as you are never sure where your orchid is placed in the great vegetative growth pyramid of a landscape: in the uppermost branches of a tree, in the lower branches of a tree or out in the open meadow? Even if a given orchid grows in an open field, it may be a short orchid shaded by taller grasses. Some books give a range of light requirements for certain genera,

# How Santa Helped Illuminate Me!

**By Margaret Prat**

and this is also imprecise, as, for example, there are light hungry cattleyas, and some that require considerably less light. Any book that suggest “bright light” versus “filtered light” has not really given a precise idea of an orchid’s light requirement needs, and what may be considered “bright” for Vancouver may be equivalent to “shade” in sunny Florida!

Above all, try to listen to your plants and how they are responding to your growing conditions. Almost all of us have had to learn the hard way. A lux meter takes some of the guess work out of light intensity in your culture space.

## **BC Council of Garden Clubs 2015 AGM**

Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Annual General Meeting of the BC Council of Garden Clubs

You may download your registration form from our website at [www.bcgardenclubs.com](http://www.bcgardenclubs.com).

You may also register online.

Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre

6515 Bonsor Avenue

Burnaby, BC V5H 3E8

Did you know that PNWJC—Richmond had a record-breaking year in 2014? Orchid growers, many of whom are members of VOS, brought a total of 204 plants to the monthly judging. Additionally, PNWJC screened over 2329 plants at the 6 shows and 2 outreach judgments that were attended. As PNWJC—Richmond started their site in 2006, less than 10 years ago, these are very impressive numbers. A big “Thanks” to all members who helped contribute to the success of 2014 by either bringing plants for judging or just showing up to the events!



# Caleana major

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Caleana major*, the **Flying Duck Orchid**, is a small [orchid](#) found in eastern and southern [Australia](#).<sup>[1]</sup> This terrestrial plant features a remarkable flower, resembling a duck in flight. The flower is an attractant to insects, such as male [sawflies](#) which pollinate the flower in a process known as [pseudocopulation](#).<sup>[1]</sup> In 1986 this orchid was featured on an Australian [postage stamp](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Description

*Caleana major* is encountered as a terrestrial herb, up to 50 cm (20 in) tall. 2-4 flowers grow on the green stem.<sup>[3]</sup> The single leaf, appears near the base of the stalk. It is usually prostrate, narrow-lanceolate, to 12 cm (5 in) long and 8 mm wide, often spotted.<sup>[4]</sup> The flower is reddish-brown, 15 to 20 mm long. In rare cases, the flower can be greenish with dark spots.<sup>[4]</sup> The plant is pollinated by insects. A sensitive strap is attached to the flower, which is triggered by vibration. Flowering occurs from September to January.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Distribution and habitat

Occurring from Queensland to South Australia, to even Tasmania,<sup>[6][7]</sup> this plant is found in [eucalyptus](#) woodland in coastal or swampy shrubland and [heathland](#). Mostly near the coast, but occasionally at higher altitudes.<sup>[4]</sup> Because of the small size, it is a difficult plant to notice in the wild.



"Flying Duck Orchid Sir Topham Hat Track" by Poyt448 Peter Woodard - Own work. Licensed

## Taxonomy

The genus *Caleana* was named after [George Caley](#), an early botanical collector.<sup>[6]</sup> Latin for "larger", *major* refers to the contrast with the other smaller Duck orchid, [Paracaleana minor](#).

The original specimen of this plant was collected at [Bennelong Point](#), the present day site of the [Sydney Opera House](#) in September, 1803.<sup>[8]</sup> In 1810, the species originally appeared in the scientific literature, *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae*, authored by the prolific Scottish botanist, [Robert Brown](#).

## Cultivation[edit]

*Caleana major* has been difficult to maintain in cultivation. Plants flower for one or sometimes two years but progressively weaken until they die.<sup>[6]</sup>



Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Australia

Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	<a href="#">Plantae</a>
(unranked):	<a href="#">Angiosperms</a>
(unranked):	<a href="#">Monocots</a>
Order:	<a href="#">Asparagales</a>
Family:	<a href="#">Orchidaceae</a>
Subfamily:	<a href="#">Orchidoideae</a>
Tribe:	<a href="#">Diurideae</a>
Subtribe:	<a href="#">incertae sedis</a>
Genus:	<a href="#">Caleana</a>
Species:	<b><i>C. major</i></b>

Binomial name
<b><i>Caleana major</i></b>

# Vancouver Orchid Society

PO Box 42025, Marpole PRO  
Vancouver, BC, V6P 6S6

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Annual membership fee is **\$30.00 per household** (one or two adults); **\$20 for Students** – from January to December

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

(Primary Member) Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Co-member) Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method

☐ Cash

☐ Cheque

please make cheque payable to: **The Vancouver Orchid Society**

### Permission to publish the following in Membership Directory?

☐ E-mail

☐ Phone #

☐ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*The membership directory will be provided to current members for society business only as per the Personal Information Privacy Act.*

### Newsletter

*Our monthly newsletters in full colour will be e-mailed monthly and are also available through our website at [www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca](http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca). Newsletters will only be postal mailed upon request.*

### Volunteering

We are a volunteer organization. All members are encouraged and expected to volunteer at least once a year. Please indicate the areas which you will be able to assist:

☐ Plant Sales

☐ Raffle

☐ Membership

☐ Library

☐ Kitchen

☐ Show Planning

☐ Show Setup

☐ Show Security

☐ Show Admissions

☐ Show Displays

*How much time can you volunteer (approximate)?*

☐ 2 hours a year

☐ 2 hours a month

☐ 2 hours a week

☐ anytime, just ask me!

### Please tell us a little bit about what kind of orchids you grow and how you grow them.

*What types of orchids do you grow (or want to grow)?*

☐ Cattleya Alliance

☐ Oncidium Alliance

☐ Phalaenopsis Alliance

☐ Vanda Alliance

☐ Dendrobiums

☐ Paphiopedilums

☐ Phragmipedium

☐ Cypripedium

☐ Cymbidiums

☐ Miltoniopsis

☐ Temperate (outdoor) orchids

☐ Others

*Where do you grow them?*

☐ Windowsill

☐ Under Lights

☐ Greenhouse

☐ Indoor (climate control)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*How many orchids do you have?*

☐ under 20

☐ 20-50

☐ 51-100

☐ 101-200

☐ over 200

What kind of programs or speakers are you interested in seeing?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the VOS?:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Date	Event
January 1	New Year's Day
January 10	PNWJC Monthly Judging
January 28	Monthly Meeting—Speaker: Terry Groszeibl "Paphiopedilums and their culture"

## February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Date	Event
February 7—8	Gardenworks Annual Orchid Festival
February 9	Culture Class: Specialty Displays of Orchids (led by Daniel Kwok)
February 14	PNWJC Monthly Judging
February 14—15	Southern Ontario Orchid Society Annual Show
February 16	Deadline to reserve Exhibition space for VOS Show & Sale
February 25	Monthly Meeting—AOS Judging Explained
February 28—March 1	Mount Baker Orchid Show

*March 2015*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Date	Event
March 9	Culture Class—Repotting Your Orchids
March 14	PNWJC Monthly Judging
March 14	BC Garden Clubs Annual AGM—2015
March 14—15	Victoria Orchid Society Annual Show
March 20—22	Manitoba Orchid Society Annual Show
March 21—22	London Orchid Society Annual Show
March 25	Monthly Meeting—Speaker: Calvin Wong will present on The 2015 Tokyo Dome Show
March 28—29 (preshow March 27)	Vancouver Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale
March 27—29	The Canadian Orchid Congress AGM (hosted by the Saskatchewan Orchid Society)
March 28—29	Les Orchidophiles de Quebec Annual Orchidexpo

*April 2015*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Date	Event
April 11	PNWJC Monthly Judging
April 11—12	Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show
April 13	Culture Class—TBA
April 18—19	Ottawa Orchid Society Annual Show
April 22	Monthly Meeting—Speaker: Alexey Tretyakov—Key Factors for Successful Growing on a Windowsill, Under Lights or in a Greenhouse