

# Orchiflora

**Volume 10, Issue 6**  
**March 2020**

**\*Culture Class**, held in the Cedar Room, VanDusen Garden  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. All orchid related questions are  
welcome – ***culture class is a member's only benefit***

**April 14** - Sandy Larson: Growing orchids under lights.

**May 12** – Wayne Riggs: Growing Dendrobium Cuthbertsonii

**June 9th** - Daniel Kwok: My Orchidarium.

**\*Montly General Meetings:** 4th Wednesday of each month  
(except July, August and December) at VanDusen Floral  
Hall; Doors Open 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7 pm

**The Wednesday March 25 meeting is  
CANCELLED due to COVID-19 government  
imposed restrictions on public meetings**

**Speaker Series:**

**March 25/2020** – Eugene Banziger. Travels in Ecuador  
– **To be rescheduled**

**April 22/2020** – Daniel Kwok - Mounting orchids

**May 27/2020** - Terry Groszeibl – FV Gardens - TBA

**June 24/2020** – Sam Tsui from Orchid Inn – TBA. Plant  
preorders available: <http://www.orchidinnusa.com>

**October 28/2020** - Jennifer Fabre – VOS member - Travels  
with Jennifer – Adventures & Misadventures

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**Editor:** Wayne Riggs



**C. Chester** – this is a true mini cattleya.  
Flower is about 5cm across and long lasting.  
Purchased from Paramount Orchids in 2018

**AOS Judging** - The Western Canada Judging Center (WCJC) meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at  
11:30am, except where noted. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their orchids for consideration  
by the American Orchid Society Judges. This is a great opportunity to learn about the judging process  
and see many orchids of award quality. **\*\*Please bring your plants for judging – you may well have a  
plant that could be an award winner!**

- April 25, 2020 - 1:00 pm at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary (Victoria).

## *President's Message*

Congratulations to all who enter their orchids in the Victoria show. We had a fantastic performance at the Victoria show with 9 Awards including Show Champion, Reserve Champion and Best Phalenopsis; Best Mini Display; Best Cymbidium; Best grown under lights and Best grown on windowsill; Best of others; Best first bloom by seedling. Thanks to all the people who volunteer their time and efforts. **A special thanks to Ingrid and Tina who set up the VOS display and won the Best Society Display; and for taking special care of our orchids.**

**Unfortunately our March show and monthly meeting are canceled.** Hopefully our August Show will be held to satisfy our desire for orchids. I wish to thank all of you who volunteered your time and energy for our March show. I appreciated your response. Each of the vendors will make their own decisions about their preorders. For the most current updates visit the Vancouver Orchid Society website.

Spring is also just around the corner. Days are getting longer. It's a time to watch for new growth, because almost all plants are beginning their growth cycle. Time to repot those orchids that need new media and with repotting comes cleaning. Repotting provide us with an opportunity to inspect our plants for pests, and remove diseased or damaged portions and prepare them for moving outdoors.

Spring is also a time plants are flowering. Everyone can appreciate some cheering up after a long, dark winter. How better to get some cheer, than to show your flowering orchids. You are welcome to send your pictures to our Website, our Facebook page or our Instagram sites by emailing [vos\\_secretary@outlook.com](mailto:vos_secretary@outlook.com)

Hope to see your beautiful orchids posted.

Stay healthy and safe. I hope to see you all soon.

Evelyn Nash

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## **MINUTES Of the February 26, 2020 Monthly Meeting**

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Our current bank balance stands at \$6,095.49. We are still waiting on payment for vendor tables from Ecuagenera and Tropical Gardens

Square will be available for card payment for admission to the show and for tickets for the Preview Party

**UPCOMING SHOWS** - **Binders from the GardenWorks event need to be returned so that we have them for the Show**

**When sending plants to shows, please be sure registration forms are filled out, your name is on the pot and they are well packed for travel**

Pick up for plants from the VicOS show will be at Evelyn's home after 6 on Monday March 2nd. Please call her first at 604 874-5534 to schedule pick up

We have increased the number of security volunteer positions. There will be several security points with highchairs to make sure we are keeping an eye on the display plants

Please distribute posters to flower shops, garden centres, supermarket bulletins, coffee shops, community centres and banks

CULTURE CLASS - Eugene Banziger will be presenting March's Culture Class on Debunking Orchid Myths

OTHER ITEMS - Please send any orchid photos you'd like to share to Wayne Riggs [wayne.riggs66@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.riggs66@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter (by the 10th of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter and to [VOS\\_secretary@outlook.com](mailto:VOS_secretary@outlook.com) to be shared on social media

A big thank you to Hilary and Norman for setting up our display at the CVIOS show

There are several positions open on the BC Council of Garden Clubs executive board

Erin and Frank have wrangled the library and will soon make the inventory of books available to members to take out

<b><i>Executive and Board of Directors</i></b>  President – Evelyn Nash 1st Vice President – Barbara Cable 2nd Vice President – Ingrid Pike Treasurer – Maureen Burke and Erik Nilsen (Co-Treasurers) Secretary – Conor Preston Directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Eugene Banziger</li><li>- Gabrielle Carson</li><li>- Giulia Comin</li><li>- Grant Rampton</li><li>- Keith Willet</li><li>- Andrew Wong</li></ul>	<b>Contributions of photos or articles to the newsletter are welcome.</b>  Send to Wayne Riggs: <a href="mailto:wayne.riggs66@gmail.com">wayne.riggs66@gmail.com</a>  <b>The Submission deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Items received after this date will appear in the next newsletter.</b>
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## In Memory of

**Fay Kunz** – who passed away in January. Fay was a long-time member of the VOS. She was very active in setting up many lovely VOS show displays until her health started to fail the last several years.

Our sincere condolences to her husband, Richard and family.

I would like to thank Richard for his donation to the VOS of a number of Fay's plants for the February raffle table as well as a large tote of show display decorating materials.

**Rob (Robert) Elvidge** – who passed away February 27. Rob was a long-time member of the Society and contributed significantly to the growth and success of the VOS for many years. He was an ardent collector and successful grower of many orchid species.

Our sincere condolences to Rob's wife, Margaret and family.

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**Margaret sent me the following information to enclose in the newsletter:**

"Rob Elvidge began to collect orchids in 1969 on a trip to Mexico in the State of Oaxaca. He joined the Vancouver Orchid Society on returning home in 1970, 50 years ago. At that time, the Society met in a room of a small hotel on Howe Street. Rob and Bert Hamilton were the only members who collected in the field at that time and most members grew hybrids. Rob collected in Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Indonesia. He also collected some native orchids. His small greenhouse grew into a larger one plus a part of the house. At one time, he had 500 plants, not including his pleiones. He kept meticulous records, showing collection date or source, repotting and bloom schedules. He learned the scientific names of all his species. In the Society, Rob was at times a Board member. He mounted many Society displays at shows where the display frequently won an award. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Judging Centre. Rob and Carla Bischoff had a joint display at the World Orchid Conference in 1999 which was well received.

Sadly, Rob died on February 27, 2020, leaving his grieving family with many happy memories of trips which included the acquisition of orchids."

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## *VOS 2020 Show and Sale*

I am sure all are aware now that our annual show has been cancelled due to the guidelines issued by government health authorities to limit the spread of COVID-19. All going well we expect to invite the same vendors for 2021.

A big thank you to the show organizing committee and many others who worked hard behind the scenes to prepare for the show.

### **Photos of VOS member Gregory Cukrov's *C. dolosa* var. *alba*:**



*C. dolosa* is found on rock outcroppings in south central Brazil.

It is thought to be a natural hybrid between *C. walkeriana* and *C. loddigesii*. However, the cross has not been successfully duplicated in culture. There is also a pink form.

Flowers can last upwards of one month.



***Keep safe everyone. While many public meeting places are closed due COVID-19 restrictions there is still, at least for now, the great outdoors to enjoy – long walks and beautiful sunshine.***



***VOS award photos from the Victoria Orchid Society  
Show – February 28, 29 & March 1.***



***Best show display***

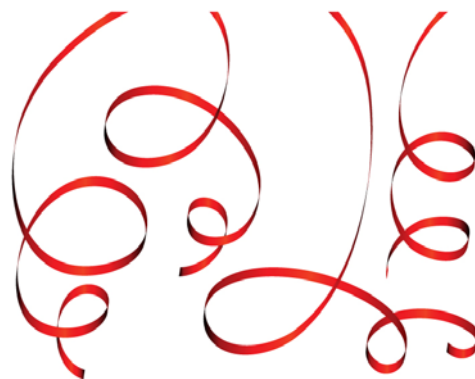




**Grand Champion. Cym. Khan Flame Tuscany.  
Thomas Hobbs**



**Reserve Champion, Best in Class Cymbidium &  
AOS Nomination. Cym. Sara Jean 'Ice Cascade'.  
Elizabeth Markus**





**Best Phalaenopsis & Best Mini Display. Phal. lobbii. Daniel Kwok**

Photoshop PSD file download - Resolution 1280x1024 px - www.psdgraphics.com



**Best First Bloom Seedling. LC. Koolau Seagull's 'Volcano Queen' x Epc. Kyoguchi 'M. Sauno' Mutation. Wayne Riggs**





**Best grown under artificial light. Den.  
cuthbertsonii GG2345. Lori Barrginton**



**Best of all others & AOS nomination.  
Renanthera citrina x sib. Wayne Riggs**



## VOS Monthly Show Table Awards – February 26, 2020



Group of five Cymbidiums. Display Award.

**Exhibitor:** Thomas Hobbs



Lycaste Skinneri Ipala Guatamalensis x John Ezzy Pink.

Plant culture & Flower quality awards.

**Exhibitor:** Richard Pearson.



Pleurothallis angustipetala. Plant culture & species awards.

**Exhibitor:** Richard Pearson





Cym. Sara Jean 'Ice Cascade'. Presentation and flower quality awards.

**Exhibitor:** Elizabeth Markus



Ondont. praestans x hangianum. Hybrid and flower quality awards.

**Exhibitor:** Thomas Hobbs



Den. kingianum variegata. Unusual species, plant culture and flower quality awards.

**Exhibitor:** Melanie Gallagher



Renanthera citrina x sib. Unusual species and well bloomed awards.

**Exhibitor:** Wayne Riggs





Dracula Bella. Plant culture and exotic flower awards.

**Exhibitor:** Thomas Hobbs



Maxillaria variabilis. Species and color form awards.

**Exhibitor:** Jennifer Pell



Den. Yasuko Sugiyama 'Parade'. Plant culture and flower color awards.

**Exhibitor:** Jennifer Pell

## **Judges:**

Pim Meyer  
Thomas Mirenda  
Elizabeth Markus  
Bill Price  
Wayne Riggs



Bulb. Taiwanese. Species and plant culture awards.

**Exhibitor:** Lori Barrington

## **Photographers**

Maureen Burke  
Collis Wilson

*As always there were many lovely orchids on display. Overall plant quality makes It is a tough decision for the judges to select 8 – 10 plants for ribbon awards. Please keep bringing your plants and volunteer to help with show table judging.*



**Early spring is here, and many orchids are showing new leads and roots. I am sharing the following article that I found on the web from Cloud Orchid's located in Ontario -- <https://www.cloudsorchids.com/culture/repot.htm>. There is lots of good practical information you may wish to consider and/or modify for your growing conditions.**

### **"Repotting Orchids"**

Repotting orchids always seems to send the beginners into a tail-spin, but trust me, it isn't rocket science. You just need to take into consideration what the plant requirements are, and what conditions you can provide. I will attempt to cover off the majority of concerns here by splitting out the considerations into clearly defined categories.

First of all, always keep an assortment of pots available when repotting. You never really know what pot size you will need until you have already unpotted your orchid and cleaned it up. Remember that the proper pot size depends entirely on root-mass, NOT plant size! The root mass should barely fit comfortably into the new pot, as this will definitely yield the best results with the fewest disappointments. If you try to use a pot that is too large, then you will run into a myriad of problems, so do not try to minimize your work by jumping ahead. The golden rule is that a healthy root system leads to a healthy plant, it is NOT the other way around!

#### **STEP 1: Decide if you need to repot**

You should only repot orchids when you NEED to repot orchids. Many resent the root disturbance that comes with repotting, so it is not a good idea to repot needlessly. The following reasons are the only times you should consider repotting:

- The potting mix has broken down
- Your plant has a health problem, so the roots need to be examined
- The plant was accidentally dropped and got damaged or unpotted in the process
- The plant has outgrown its pot

To clarify the "outgrown" comment, remember that orchids like to be tight in their pots and thrive best when this is the case. In fact, Cattleya alliance plants actually bloom best when they are 1 or 2 growths off the edge of the pot, so repotting them sooner deprives you of a nice display of flowers.

#### **STEP 2: Unpotting your orchid**

Before you embark on repotting your orchid, it is usually easier to unpot the plant if the mix is slightly damp as opposed to being completely dry. Watering your plant the day BEFORE you plan to repot usually makes this step a lot easier. If the plant is in a clay pot, then immerse the whole pot in water the day before (10 to 15 minutes should suffice), as these pots actually absorb a lot of water themselves, and roots often weld themselves to the surfaces making it harder for them to be dislodged easily without excessive damage to the root system.

We find that knocking the outside of the pot on several sides will help to loosen the old potting material. Once loosened, remove the plant from its pot. Shake off any loose medium first. Now inspect the root system. Remove any large bits of mix that may be attached to the roots, since these will degrade quickly once the plant is repotted. Remove dead roots with sterile tools. Typically you can expect UP TO 1/3 of the roots to be dead or rotten with most plants. If you have more than this, then



there is a problem that should be addressed. You may have waited too long to repot, the quality of potting mix was poor, or the original pot size was too large for the root mass. This is also a good time to remove any leaves that are going yellow, or trimming off dead leaf tips. For larger plants, you might also consider removing some of the oldest pseudobulbs if they are very shrivelled and there are plenty of younger pseudobulbs that are in good shape. You can sometimes pot up these back-divisions (back-bulbs) separately, as they can often sprout and give you some new plants to share!

As far as timing is concerned, it is always best to repot orchids when they are in active growth. If there is no sign of growth activity, then the plant will take a much longer time to re-establish itself in the new medium. For most orchids, a good time to repot is in the spring, since growth activity is usually sparked at that time of year, especially for plants growing on a windowsill.

### **STEP 3: Decide if you should divide the plant**

If your plant is really large, you may want to divide it to get more plants. Do not divide plants into pieces that are smaller than 3 growths, as this will give you the best results. Smaller divisions often languish for a long time before establishing properly, and consequently they are more susceptible to infection and other ailments. Keep in mind that you do not HAVE to divide a large plant unless there is a pressing need to. Larger plants typically produce more new growths off front leads than do smaller plants. This is because larger plants also tend to be stronger plants, so they bloom more frequently and are more resistant to problems than smaller plants are.

### **STEP 4: Choose the right pot**

There is always a lot of discussion as to whether clay pots are better than plastic pots. We prefer to use plastic pots, since they do not absorb toxic chemicals and pathogens. We only use clay pots in exceptional cases where the plant needs to dry out quickly between waterings, since clay draws moisture out of the mix. The guidelines below are for plastic pots.

Here is our recommended **general** guidelines for mixes to use dependent on pot size:

Pot Size (Diameter in inches)	Mix	Notes
1" -> 2.5"	sphagnum moss	Generally, the best medium to use, but there are exceptions for species that are poor rooters or prefer mounting. Frequency: Good quality sphagnum will typically last 1 to 1.5 years before needing replacement.
3" -> 4.5"	bark mixes: fine layered over coarse	As the pot size increases, so should the proportion of coarse mix used. Frequency: Good quality bark mixes will typically last 2 to 3 years before needing replacement.

5" and up	Coarse bark mix	<p>Unless you have a very dry environment, you typically do not need to layer any finer mix on top of the coarse for these size pots.</p> <p>Frequency: Good quality bark mixes will typically last 2 to 3 years before needing replacement.</p>
<p>NOTE 1: When potting true epiphytes (tree-dwellers), remember that these are lateral or shallow rooters, so choose pots that are not as deep as they are wide. Most tropical orchids fall into this group.</p> <p>When potting terrestrial types (ground dwellers), then the reverse is true, since they will want to root deeply, so choose pots that are deeper than they are wide. In choosing a new pot, DO NOT try to compromise! Piling a bunch of styrofoam peanuts into a pot that is too deep is never a good solution in the long term. If you don't know which rooting type you have, then refer to the appropriate page in the culture groups to find that information.</p>		
<p>NOTE 2: There is no mandate that you must use a different pot when repotting. If the current pot is the right size, then you should clean it and re-use it!</p>		

Old potting mix is great for adding to your composter. You should NEVER try to reuse it!

#### **STEP 5: Potting up the plant**

We do not recommend the use of styrofoam peanuts or any other foreign materials in the bottom of pots. They allow pockets of mix to remain wetter than the rest of the mix and can accelerate the breakdown of the new mix. We also do not recommend just using straight bark in a mix, as this tends to rot much more quickly than a proper blend of bark, charcoal and perlite. In fact, I call charcoal and perlite my "insurance policy" as charcoal absorbs toxins, keeping the mix "sweet" and perlite preserves air pockets so the roots don't choke as the mix begins to break down. Always use the best quality potting media that you can get your hands on. Sub-standard media or media not specifically targeted for orchids, are an expensive risk, as they usually rot quickly or contain toxins that will affect your plant. Don't learn this lesson the hard way!

Identify which part of your plant is the oldest, as this determines how to best position the plant in it's new pot. If the oldest bit is in the center of the plant, then the plant should be centered in the new pot. If the oldest part is to one side, then push that side right up to the side or corner of the new pot, which allows for the maximum space for new growths to develop. Hold the plant at the right height in the pot as you add fresh potting mix. We prefer to use potting mix dry or only slightly damp (to lessen the amount of dust). Then when you tap the pot as you add mix, it will settle nicely between the roots so you don't have air pockets. When you have finished adding new mix, push it down to secure the plant, and verify that it is at the right depth in the pot. If the plant is unsteady, then secure it with a rhizome clip, or by tying it to a stake until it establishes completely. If the plant is left to wobble in the pot, it will take nearly 3 times as long to re-establish itself, since the wobbling will bruise the new root tips as they emerge.

Roots tend to be brittle and stiff, so when bending them into a pot it is best to be as gentle as possible. If you break a root, then determine if the break is right through the actual root and not just the outside covering (velamen). If the break is right through the wiry bit in the middle of the root, then the actual root itself is broken and should be removed. However, if the wiry bit in the middle of root is still intact, then the root is still viable and should be kept. If you have damaged one or more roots in this manner, then the following comments about aerial roots apply, and this treatment will allow the root to heal properly.

If you have aerial roots, they too can be put into the pot now. If their numbers are high, then just water on the shy side for the first 2 months, to allow the cells in these aerial roots to adjust to being buried. Otherwise you can just water normally. This guideline also applies if you have transitioned the plant into a different type of potting mix than it was in before. You have to allow the plant to adjust whenever such a drastic change is made.

#### **STEP 6: Update your records**

You should now record the new potting date somewhere. We recommend using the back of the plant tag for this purpose. Just jot down the month and year. This will help you to determine when you should consider repotting your orchid the next time.

Congratulations, you have now successfully and properly repotted your orchid!”

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#### *Social Media:*

*Instagram* - VOS member Conor Preston has established an Instagram account to generate public interest in growing orchids. Please visit: <https://www.instagram.com/vancouverorchidsociety/>  
If you would like to post photos of your flowering orchids, please get in touch with Conor at: [conorpreston88@gmail.com](mailto:conorpreston88@gmail.com)

*WhatsApp – VOS chatroom* - Daniel Kwok has established Chatrooms for VOS members to post photos of their orchids, ask questions about plant health or growing tips. It is a great forum to learn from others and to share your plant photos and growing conditions.

We would like to encourage new VOS members, and current members who have not joined the VOS chatroom, to get in touch with Daniel at: [dkwok3580@gmail.com](mailto:dkwok3580@gmail.com) (Tel: 604 805-3866) to be added.

*Facebook*-You can also follow us on  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VancouverOrchidSociety/>

#### **Facebook/Instagram - Photos of your orchids needed**

Photos of your flowering orchids (and very basic information on growing conditions) are needed for the VOS **Facebook Page and Instagram**. This is a great way to promote our love of orchids to other growers and the public. Send your photos to Jennifer Pell/Conor Preston at: [VOS\\_secretary@outlook.com](mailto:VOS_secretary@outlook.com)