

Orchiflora

Volume 8, Issue 4
January 2018

Speaker Series:

January 24 – Eugene Banziger will present on his trip to Ecuador

February 28 – Sasha Kubichek – ‘Orchids from the Philippines’

March 28 - Verne Smythe - ‘Native BC Orchids’

April 25 - TBA

May 23 - TBA

June 27 - Alan Koch Gold Country Orchids, Topic to be announced

September 26 - Roy Tokunaga, H & R, Topic to be announced

October 24 - Winquing Penner, Topic to be announced

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*

January- no class

February 13 - Phragmipedium Culture & Care - Don Harquail

March: 13 – Pests & Diseases - Grant Rampton

April 10 - First Aid for your rootless orchid - Ingrid Pike

May 8 – Culture of Dendrobium cuthbertsonii - Wayne Riggs

June 12 – topic to be decided - Daniel Wong

October 9 - Lava, leca and lessons learned: A beginners guide to growing in inorganic media and semi-hydroponics. - Jennifer Pell

Upcoming Shows & Sales

Victoria Orchid Society – March 2, 3, 4, 2018

Our Lady of Fatima Hall 4635 Elk Lake Road Victoria

Vancouver Orchid Society – March 23, 24, 25, 2018

Floral Hall, VanDusen Garden

5151 Oak Street,

Vancouver BC V6M 4H1

AOS Judging:

Pacific Northwest Judging Centre (**PNWJC**) meets every 2nd Saturday of the month. 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.

2018 Calendar

January 13, 2018 : 11:30am at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria BC

February 10, 2018 : 11:30am at Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond B.C.

Monthly 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

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President's Message

Hello and happy new year everyone, I hope all had a great holiday and stayed safe out there.

Ring in the year with friends and family was a great start so far, and I'm personally reaching some big milestones this year.

We're enjoying some unseasonably warm weather this week and it's a bit easier to keep our orchids cozy over the winter right now.

It's a great time to check the plants over thoroughly for problems and pests and catch them early (and any evidence of sabotage from pesky rodents), as they will be a bit slower to recover at this time of year.

I've noticed the past year was a bit strange for flowers and timing was off from the previous years. As such I have a few plants in bloom now, and enjoying a bit of colour to offset these grey cast days at home. Hopefully everyone else is too.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at the next upcoming meetings, and wishing that you all reach your goals and dreams for 2018.

Ryan Young

MINUTES

There was no official business meeting for the November 22, 2017 Annual Christmas Potluck Party.

Executive and Board of Directors

President – Ryan Young
1st Vice President – Margaret Prat
2nd Vice President - Natasha Charif
Treasurer – Judy Buttress and Erik Nilsen (Co-Treasurers)
Secretary – Connor Preston
Directors:
- Grant Rampton
- Eugene Banziger
- Daniel Kwok
- Keith Willet
- Ingrid Pike
- Jennifer Pell

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome.

Please send to Wayne Riggs at:
wayne.riggs66@gmail.com

Article/Photo Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. Items received after this date will appear in the next newsletter.



Additional information for upcoming orchid shows

Victoria Orchid Society 2018 Annual Show and Sale – March 2, 3 & 4.

Location: Our Lady of Fatima Hall 4635 Elk Lake Road Victoria

Show schedule:

Friday, March 2nd - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Registration for display plants, display and sales table set-up

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Ribbon Judging

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Awards presentation

Saturday, March 3rd - 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. - Open to the public

1:00 p.m. until finished - AOS Judging

Sunday, March 4th - 11:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. - Open to the public

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Take down of show

Please note that vendor space is available if the Vancouver Orchid Society members would like to bring some orchids to sell to the public. If you wish to sell at the show, please contact Melanie at:

melroga@telus.net

Please encourage your members to “like” us on Facebook to stay in touch and to find images of dollar off coupons!! <https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaOrchidSociety/>

Melanie Norris

Victoria Orchid Society Show Chair 2018

Vancouver Orchid Society 2018 Annual Show and Sale – March 23, 24 & 25.

VanDusen Floral Hall

Detailed information will be circulated over the next couple of months as we prepare for our show.

For now the VOS Show Committee is looking for a volunteer coordinator. This entails recruiting volunteers at the January & February Monthly Meetings for the various positions needed to put on a successful show (e.g., show set up/ tear down, security, plant hotel, preview night, ask me, etc.). We have prepared sign up sheets which will be made available to the coordinator to recruit volunteers. This position could be shared by two individuals. Please consider helping us out.

Thank you,

Jennifer Pell, Margaret Prat, Wayne Riggs – show co-chairs.

jennifer.pell@gmail.com margprat@gmail.com wayne.riggs66@gmail.com

Special Note – Time change for Culture Class

For the coming year culture classes will be held on Tuesday evenings (not Mondays as in the past). See page 1 for the schedule and list of presenters to date.

Photos from the Annual Christmas Potluck Party

Enjoying the amazing variety of food and sharing good times with fellow VOS members



Special thanks to all for bringing the wonderful dishes to share!!

A big thank you to Franck Prat for taking and sharing these photos.

Photos from the Annual Christmas Potluck Party - continued



Our Auctioneer, Stella with Ryan providing information about various plants:

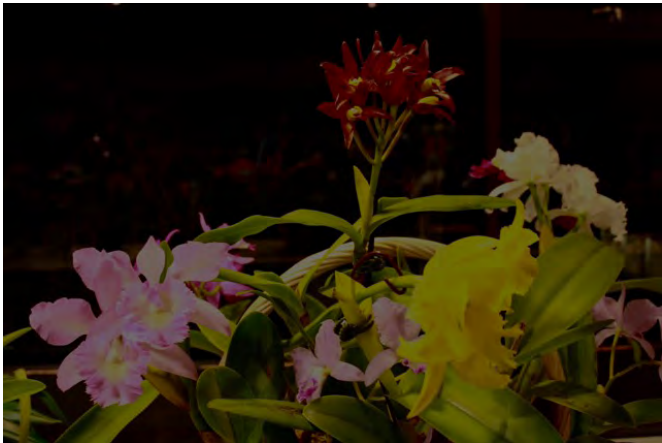




Barbara and Margaret – collecting the dollars for auctioned items



Potluck Dinner - Show Table Photos



Potluck Dinner - Show Table



Thank you to all who brought
their lovely flowering orchids
for display.





Potluck Dinner - Show Table
Photos – Continued:



As always lots of variety and beautiful colors!

AOS Western Canada Judging Center

Monthly judging results November 18,
2017



Paphiopedilum (Hilo Green x Pat Rowland) 'Jenny'
HCC/AOS 77pts
Exhibitor: Svend Munkholm

Judges in attendance:

Monica De Wit
Poul Hansen
Ben Rostron
Abu Salleh
Deborah Ward
Calvin Wong
Ingrid Ostrander
Margaret Prat (Associate)
Ryan Young (Associate)
John Taylor (Student)



Pleurothallis inornata 'Pepe's Gift'
CBR/AOS
Exhibitor: Sasha Kubicek

Photographer:

Judith Higham

**please note that all awards are considered provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchid Plus

AOS Western Canada Judging Center Monthly judging results December 9, 2017 – report by Abu Salleh, Chair:

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging on December 9, 2017, no AOS awards were granted.

We had an exciting 2017 of orchid judging activities, the most exciting of which is the starting of Western Canada Judging Center in June. We had an amazing year and a big thank you to all the judges, photographers and judging personnel, and most of all, exhibitors for coming to our monthly judgings and exhibiting in society show displays this year. Because of your contribution, we get to see and experience a great variety of plant material because of all of your support!

Here are some numbers for 2017:

- 173 plants submitted at monthly judgings
 - 63 plants nominated with 22 AOS awards granted
- 1909 plants submitted at show judgings and outreach judgings
 - 102 plants nominated with 25 AOS awards granted

We are definitely looking forward to an exciting 2018 with a continuation of your support!

If you are an AOS affiliated society and want to schedule an AOS Outreach Judging as a society monthly meeting program in 2018, please contact me (asalleh@telus.net) and we will make it happen!

The AOS Western Canada Judging Center meets every second Saturday of the month at 11:30am, except where noted

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

A membership form is attached to the last page of this newsletter. Print, fill out and bring to the January 24 meeting or mail along with your cheque payable to 'The Vancouver Orchid Society' to the address provided on the form.

SHOW TIME!

The following article, while perhaps a bit dated still provides some very good information about getting our plants ready to display in upcoming shows. (Reprinted from the COC).

Also appended is the January/February checklist from the American Orchid Society

Preparing to Show Orchids

by Marilyn H. S. Light

We all likely remember when we first saw orchids in a handsome display at a show. This could have been the first time we saw corsage orchids (Cattleyas) presented as part of a living plant! It was possibly at a show that we became inspired to become orchid growers and to someday proudly show what we had bloomed. We may not have realised it then, but a lot of preparation goes into showing orchids. In order to achieve the very best, an exhibitor must choose healthy stock, grow it well, care for the developing flowers and transport all safely to the show. Lets get prepared to do as good a job! Exhibitors have a variety of goals in mind when they show an orchid. Some wish to proudly show their very first orchid whose blooming event thankfully coincided with the local show date. Maybe they will win a ribbon and maybe not but they will have succeeded in blooming what they once only dreamed of. Rosettes, ribbons, trophies and maybe an award or two are a definite lure for some exhibitors while others simply wish to assist their club by supplying additional plants for a larger exhibit.

In larger displays, flaws are likely not seen by the casual observer but in smaller exhibits or when a plant is on the judging table, flaws are much more apparent. Despite the pretty flowers, yellowed or spotted leaves stand out in stark contrast which can be a turn off to the viewer. It is therefore in the best interest of the exhibitor to groom plants before the show. Not only will plants be at their best but a ribbon or two may be more likely forthcoming. Furthermore, their fine plants will help set goals for all those future exhibitors.

Preparing the plant

The process of showing orchids begins long before the show date. Protect potential show plants from conditions that damage foliage and new growths. Most orchids keep their leaves for several years or even longer. A spot of drought or too little shade can produce effects such as accordion-pleated foliage in *Miltonia* or an unsightly brown papery patch on a *Cattleya* leaf.

Divide and repot orchids in their season but well before a show so that they will be secure in their containers. While it is normal for some orchids to develop aerial roots outside of their containers, this can present a problem when transporting and staging exhibits. Exposed roots will likely become damaged during transport. An orchid will likely recover from superficial damage such as broken leaf tips and sunburn but the telltale signs will persist and could render the plant unsuitable for display where the foliage will be easily seen. Catasium foliage may be deciduous but marks of an early thrips and aphid attack will mar the leaves for an entire season.

Control pests, water and fertilize with care, avoid spraying with hard water or products that leave an unsightly residue. Crown rot not only puts a plant at risk and damages its appearance but it also reduces the flowering capacity for a minimum of one season. A variety of fungi can mar foliage. Plants grown too hot or too cold, too wet or under too humid conditions and without adequate ventilation can develop unsightly foliage. Questionable specimens should either be tested or isolated from the collection. Remove virused plants from the collection and do not take them to a show. Not only are they a menace to healthy plants but they often present unsightly foliage. Grow plants as well as possible for maximum bloom quality and production.

A few days before show time, select plants at their blooming prime. While grooming should be a year round task, it is worthwhile checking that all debris including dead foliage, dried backbulbs, and recently fallen blooms have been removed. Tweezers are useful tools when grooming tiny specimens. Examine the foliage, especially the undersurface, for signs of scale and other pests. Gently wipe the upper surface of each leaf with a clean damp paper towel. Change towels between plants. Repeat if necessary at the show to remove travel dust. Do your fellow exhibitors a favor by leaving infested plants at home. Hosing off aphids as a quick fix inevitably leaves a few hitchhikers that will spread to other plants at a show.

When foliage is unsightly because of simple physical damage, we can still make good use of the blooms. Blooms can be entered in a cut flower or decorative class. In a large display, minor problems may disappear amongst the mass of blooms. An alternative is to remove the damaged portions from an otherwise large healthy specimen but this should be done only as a last resort.

Training the inflorescence

Inflorescences are soft when immature but as they elongate, can become brittle and inflexible. As tiny flower buds develop, they will adjust their position according to the direction of light and the plant habit. Resupination (lip becoming lowermost) happens a few days before the flower opens. The best time to stake an inflorescence is when it is young. This way, flower buds and flowers will be carried to best advantage. Use a long enough stake to support what is expected to develop.

Inflorescences can be staked to be upright or arching. *Phalaenopsis* and *Odontoglossum* are staked vertical over their entire length or partway which permits the flower-bearing part to drape gracefully in a cascade of wonderful blooms. Use only new bamboo or sterilized metal or plastic stakes. Be certain that a stake will not wobble during transport. Gently train a developing inflorescence by securing it along its length as it elongates using twists of waxed florist tape. Never attach the tie so tightly that the stalk becomes deformed. During the entire training process until flowering, keep the plant in the same position relative to the direction of light. A mark on the pot can help with realignment if the container has to be moved. Stakes are sometimes removed for display purposes but if this is not the intention, choose a stake style to complement rather than detract from the flowers.

Care of the flowers

Developing flower buds are very susceptible to physical damage such as bruising, sun or frost burn, and insect predation and this can happen weeks before the show. A tiny scar on an equally tiny bud may not be noticeable but the damaged part can become an unsightly blemish when the bud expands to open.

Protect developing buds from damage by paying close attention to culture. Control insect pests especially thrips and aphids preferably before the buds form. Thrips nymphs will feed just under the petal edges of an opening bud leaving silvery scars to mar an otherwise beautiful flower. *Botrytis* fungus is a problem when nights are cool, humidity is high and there is poor air circulation. Affected buds and flowers will develop unsightly speckles. Pay special attention to ventilation in the weeks leading up to a show, especially if it is during a change of season.

Bud drop is a maddening habit of some *Dendrobium* and *Phalaenopsis* plants. A sharp change in temperature and humidity is suggested as the cause but you may not be able to stop bud drop from happening. If you have plants that are particularly susceptible to bud drop, bear this in mind before choosing them for the center of a display. Chances are that the changes experienced on the way to the show or at the show will cause buds to change colour and drop.

Dislodged pollen can cause flowers to collapse or to change color. Male flowers of *Catasetum* are notorious for launching pollinia at the slightest touch to one of the two trigger appendages that protrude from the column. Be absolutely certain that *Catasetum* spikes do not touch anything while in transit. I attach cords to either side of the stake and use these to keep the flowers away from the sides of the container. Thankfully, flower collapse happens about a day after the pollen is lost so ribbon judging may not be affected if the worst happens. *Cymbidiums* are also susceptible. A dislodged anther cap can be sufficient to tarnish an otherwise pristine bloom. Pure color *Cymbidiums* that lack the ability to express red pigment are seemingly immune to the problem.

Pests and Diseases

Pests and diseases have no business at a show but that does not mean that they will not be present. We all have a duty to ensure that our plants are not a source of problems for other exhibitors.

Greenhouse growers are encouraged to check especially yellow flowers and new succulent growths for aphids before bringing the plants to the show. While a blast of water or even soapy water will remove most, some nymphs may linger. Flower thrips, and a nasty hermaphroditic thrips that affects *Paphs* and other orchids, *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis*, can spread to other plants at a show. Since the latter are hermaphrodites, only one is needed to start a destructive infestation that is challenging to eliminate. Adult thrips will hide in potting media while juveniles will feed in groups on the leaves and inflorescence bracts of *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium*, and *Disa*. They seem to prefer feeding on the flowers of the *Cattleya* alliance. Control pests well before the show otherwise leave the monsters at home.

Transport

Planning is critical to success. Suitable boxes, packing, helping hands and a vehicle are all part of successful transport. When selecting plants which might be in flower at show time, consider how they can be packed and how those containers can fit in your vehicle. It is not unknown for someone to rent a van to transport an especially large or tall specimen.

Consider the effect of too much heat from the sun or car heater, the chance of sunburn, freezing because of proximity to an uninsulated wall or chill because of the air conditioning. If renting a vehicle, check for the location of heating/air conditioning vents. Use such areas for storing luggage, props and such non-plant items.

If you plan to stop along the way for a meal, consider what will happen to the plants left in the car over midday. Heat from the sun will quickly damage flowers and even kill plants.

Take no chances with a precious cargo that you have worked hard to acquire. Park in the shade. Cover plants in boxes with a lightweight cloth to mask the sun's rays. I use a picnic cooler to transport tiny *pleurothallids* in cool, humid comfort. We cannot always have the ideal weather for transporting orchids to a show but cool cloudy weather is probably safest.

At the show

Have on hand: show schedule, paper towels, spray bottle and water, tweezers, scissors, razorblades and alcohol, waxed florist tape

Locate your assigned exhibit area then get assistance to transport the plants and containers to that area. Move carefully and deliberately especially with tall or ungainly specimens. Sudden and expressive hand movements have been known to knock off a flower or two! Unpack carefully, check that any stakes are still secure. Groom again if needed, remove any travelling supports and table your blooming beauties. Ensure that the entries are registered and labelled then sit back and enjoy the show and the culmination of months of preparation. Perhaps this time it will be you that receives ribbons.

Good luck!

© Re-printed fromCOC Newsletter Volume 15.5 November 2003

Monthly Checklist for January and February – reprinted from the American Orchid Society Website, January 2018.



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter-blooming species.

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

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. 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 _____