

news

Volume 11 - February 1999

Contents

COC Sponsors two Students

Canadian Orchid Personalities - Gordon Heaps

Society Dues

Charitable Status

COC Meeting Report

Show Trophy Displays

Abstract: Unflasking Orchids

Conservation of the Genetic Resources of Vanilla

On the Web

COC Member Society Newsletter Editors

WOC Show - Speakers

Orchids as Gifts

Upcoming Events

TWO DOCTORAL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR COC SPONSORSHIP TO ATTEND THE WOC IN VANCOUVER

Two PhD candidates whose field of study is orchids have been selected for COC sponsorship. They are Carla Zelmer (University of Guelph) and Miguel Angel Soto Arenas (National University of Mexico). The COC is proud to be able to assist young investigators working to learn more about orchids and their conservation. Look forward to two fascinating presentations!

Carla Zelmer began her studies in Jan. 1997 as a student in the Dept. of Botany, University of Guelph, Ontario. Her thesis work concerns the root-associated organisms of the slipper orchids (*Cypripedium*, *Phragmipedium* and *Paphiopedilum*) and their effects on sterilely-raised seedlings. Supervisor: Dr. R. L. Peterson. Carla's presentation at the WOC is titled "Unflasking orchids - do sterile seedlings benefit from inoculation with "helper" organisms?" and is scheduled for Friday, April 30 at 2:55-3:30 pm. The abstract is found on Page 5.

Miguel Angel Soto Arenas began his studies with the Institute of Ecology, UNAM in 1996. His thesis work on the Evolution of Vanilla includes phylogeny and biogeography. Supervisor: Dr. Elena Alvarez-Buylla, Lab. Genetica Molecular y Evolucion, UNAM). Miguel will discuss the "Conservation of the Genetic Resources of Vanilla" on Saturday, May 1 at 11:35-12:10 pm. The abstract is found on Page 6.

Canadian Orchid Personalities

GORDON HEAPS

Hails from: Edmonton, Alberta

Profession: Horticulturalist "Growing plants has always been my passion."

Vital Stats: Two children, 3 grand children and 2 yellow retrievers. An accomplished photographer is his wife, Janet, who takes all his pictures, especially of wild orchids which he admires and wishes to conserve.

Member: The Orchid Species Preservation Foundation of Alberta; Past-President, Orchid Society of Alberta; and past Vice-President, COC.

Recent Accomplishment: 'The New Grower's Guide to Orchids', a 48-page book about orchid culture. A book on pests and diseases is in the pipeline.

Began growing orchids: By accident. During one of his many annual Florida business trips, he dropped into a nursery and happened to buy a plant which later proved to be *Epi. stamfordianum*. "Once I flowered the plant, I went to a show then went to my first orchid meeting. That was 15 years ago and the collection now numbers 5000 plants." From his book: "Once you have grown an orchid and had it flower, you will be under its spell. You will find that you can't stop at one or two, there will always be room for just one more. Before long you'll be addicted (or you may be already). If only there was an Orchids Anonymous!"

Favorite Orchid in my collection: *Lc. Dubescens* 'Maui Maid' because the colour is pure, white, with just a touch of pink in the lip.

Real Passion: Collecting *Oncidium* species.

Hybridization interests: Over 25 crosses registered to date including *Phal. Solar Halo*, *Dtps. Distant Galaxy*, *Phal Galactic Frost*, *Phal. Solar Cluster*, *Pot. Lunar Sunset*, *Pot. Solar Green*, *Pot. Snow Comet*. He first began working with *Phals*, hybridizing for yellows and greens. Now he is interested in developing mini-catts in the same colour range. His favourite parent is *Pot. Beaufort Gold*, using it as a seed parent with large standard cattleyas. "It gives compact, yellow-flowered and red-lipped offspring." Using the same *Pot. Beaufort Gold* as a pollen parent with *Blc. Ports of Paradise*, he has registered *Pot. Solar Green*. Two plants of hybrid *Pot. Janet Elizabeth*, 'Firedancer' AM/AOS and 'Sunsprite' HCC/AOS, have been recently awarded. Gordon really likes pure colours, yellow, green, even white. look for more glactically inspired hybrids in the future.

My views on conservation: I am more and more involved with the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation and have recently developed guidelines for the Foundation regarding propagation by seed and tissue culture. "Preservation and perpetuation of species is important to maintain the gene pool. We have to be able to maintain species that we already have in cultivation. If we lose a species, it is very serious."

Hobby: gardening, especially perennials, and gathering interesting rocks. "I never pass a rock pile without checking out the rocks."

Society Dues

COC Treasurer, Janette Richardson tells us that all Societies should now have received their Annual Dues Notice. If you have not already done so, please remit your dues to the Treasurer as soon as possible. The rate is \$1.00 per member as of January 1, 1999. Because the COC AGM will be held on May 2 this year and since the books will be closed for audit at the end of March, your cooperation in timely remittance will be greatly appreciated.

Janette Richardson, 38 Straub Crescent, Regina SK S4T 6S6

Charitable Status

At the COC annual meeting in Montreal in October the COC executive and society representatives voted to pursue the subject of charity status for the COC. The procedure has been discussed with a person who has previously handled the process for another organization. The required forms have been obtained from Revenue Canada and shortly will be completed and returned along with a copy of our constitution. An update of our progress will follow in the next newsletter.

Jeanette Arthurs, Chairman, Charitable Status Committee.

A Brief Outline of the Canadian Orchid Congress Meeting

held October 18, 1998 in Montreal, Quebec
prepared by Judy Browne, Secretary, COC

Committee Reports:

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting of the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC), held May 4, 1997 in Regina, Saskatchewan, were accepted as circulated to the member societies by Janette Richardson.

President's Report: Jeanette Arthurs thanked the ECOS for hosting the COC. She also thanked the members of the board for their work. Jeanette reported that the COC had twenty-five paid up member societies. She also reminded the COC reps that it is important to keep the COC informed of any changes of executive and/or COC rep for their local societies, and any new addresses.

Vice-President's Report: There was no vice-president's report.

Treasurer's Report: Janette Richardson was unable to attend, but she sent along a financial report that was circulated. The financial report was accepted as circulated.

Secretary's Report: Judy Browne had nothing to report.

Conservation Report: Marilyn Light tabled the 1998 annual report of the Conservation Committee. The report outlined activity in several areas including: 1) the support of conservation efforts of member societies of the COC; 2) representation of the COC at consultation meetings with Environment Canada; 3) the ongoing collection of habitat data and photographic slides of native orchids towards development of slide programs for member societies; 4) developing an international, World Wide Web-based, monthly discussion on topics on orchid conservation in collaboration with OrchidSafari; and 5) international collaboration to avert smuggling of wild collected orchids into Canada. Marilyn produced and donated to the COC a booklet called "Discussion Topics in Orchid Conservation" which was to be given to member societies to be used by these societies to spark discussion on the topic. There were no submissions to the Conservation Award contest for 1998, but she urged societies to participate in the poster presentation at the World Orchid Congress (WOC), as these would be

considered for the 1999 Conservation Award.

Newsletter: Malcolm Adams has resigned as newsletter editor. We are all indebted to Malcolm for his commitment and hard work. Thank-you to Jerry Bolce for taking on that commitment and giving Malcolm a chance to retire.

Awards: Ken Girard informed us that there were enough medals to fulfill requests for possibly two years. Mounting the medals and mailing were discussed.

New Business:

Speaker's Tours: Landis Stanlake resigned as co-ordinator of the COC Speaker's Tour. Problems with the tour and a possible new focus were discussed. It was decided to keep the Speaker's Tour Committee open and active and reassess the whole situation in the future.

Charitable Status: After lengthy discussion, it was decided that Jeanette Arthurs head up a committee with a budget of \$500.00 to investigate the feasibility of obtaining charitable status for the COC.

Web Page: It was decided that the COC look into having an independent web site.

Newsletter: Several suggestions were made about improving the newsletter with respect to getting more society information into the newsletter. These were to be directed to Jerry Bolce. Reps were asked to direct any other suggestions for improvement directly to Jerry.

COC Meeting at WOC: It was decided that the published meeting date of Sunday, May 2 at 9:30 would stand.

Upcoming Meetings of the COC:

- 1999 Vancouver, British Columbia;
- 2000 London, Ontario;
- 2001 Victoria, British Columbia;
- 2002 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

WOC: Eleanor Holwerda distributed packets of information about the WOC that she urged reps to share with their societies. Benefits of attending, cost of the conference, and advertising were discussed. Eleanor urged people to check the WOC website (<http://www.hedgerows.com/WOC99>) for updated information on the WOC. It was commented that the WOC is one of the greatest services to hobbyists with so much

information available in one place.

Elections:

The newly elected executive are:

President	Marilyn Light
Vice-President	Lynne Cassidy
Secretary	Judy Browne
Treasurer	Janette Richardson

Education: Ken Girard agreed to stay on as Education chair. The COC decided to support the production of a number of slide programs on species and culture which would be available for societies to borrow for use at their meetings. Ken Girard was given a budget for printing of his book on Phragmipediums. This cost who be recouped through sales of the book.

Special request from the WOC: James Biro brought a request for funding support to be used to bring lecturers to the WOC who were not able to attend because of monetary considerations. A motion was passed by the COC to provide funds (\$1000.00 from the reserve) to assist in

bringing a speaker of the COC's choice to the WOC, with the understanding that:

- 1) there would be recognition of the COC's sponsorship in printed matter and
- 2) that the COC would have the right to use the printed material that will appear in the proceedings.

Les Orchidophiles de Montreal: Nancy Tozer spoke to the meeting on behalf of Les Orchidophiles de Montreal in response to a letter sent by Jeanette Arthurs inviting this group to become members of the COC. Marilyn Light will reply to their concerns.

Budget: A budget of \$4200.00 was approved for the coming year. This did not include the grant to the WOC.

Communication: Marilyn Light proposed having regional meetings to improve COC communication and to address regional issues. These meetings could be tied to a talk given to a society. Several issues pertaining to this topic were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned.

AOS Show Trophy Displays An Interview with Mario Ferrusi

How long have you been involved in growing orchids and setting up orchid displays?

I've been growing orchids for 18 years and setting up displays for about 17 years.

Tell us a little about the number of displays you've set up over the years and how you've done in AOS Show trophy competition?

Generally, I've set up 4 or 5 displays per year. It was 6 or 7 years before I won my first AOS Show trophy, so I'd set up at least 30 displays before winning my first one. Since then I've won about 30 AOS Show trophies.

When do you start planning your display?

That depends on the type of display. If I'm setting up a Society Display, I collect plants on the Wednesday before the show so I can see the types and sizes of plants that will be in the display, decide on the props to use, fill out entry tags, and make up labels. If I am setting up my own display, I may start 2 to 3 weeks before the show, screening and preparing my plants. One week before the show, I decide on the size of the display based on the number and types of plants that will be available. Specimen plants and tall plants require more work to achieve good balance and to establish

a focal point. You want to make sure that a specimen plant does not overpower the rest of the display, especially in a 25sq. ft. display. Too much impact from a single specimen plant or a couple of specimen plants can overpower a display. Tall plants can cause balance problems in a display. If I have many tall plants, I choose natural wood props that are tall to complement the plants and some shorter wood pieces to work in the smaller plants. Depending on the height of the plants, I decide if I am going to use my short, round, black tables or if I will be building the display on the floor and I pick my natural wood props. I try to visualize where I will place the props and the plants. When I arrive at the show, I set up the props and begin to place the plants were I imagined they should be in the display. It doesn't always work out exactly the way I've planned, so I may have to manoeuvre the plants to work them into the right position.

Most of your displays that I have seen are island displays, do you agree with the assertion that island displays are harder to design?

Like most people, I started with wall displays against a black curtain backdrop or corner displays. I was worried

that my first island display wouldn't work, but now that I've been building them for awhile, I find them much easier to design. Wall displays are limited, you can only view them straight on, so plants are often set up in rows. It's also harder to achieve height in a display limited by a backdrop. It is much easier to work many high impact plants into an island display because you have 360 degrees to work with, providing different views as you walk around the island.

Do you think it is harder to do a society or an individual display?
Doing a society display is much harder. You take and put in the plants that you get from your members. You don't want to leave out someone's first submission or favorite plant. Using average plants in your display always reduces your chances of winning the AOS Show Trophy.

What elements do you think are most important in designing an AOS Show Trophy winning display?
Number one, is quality plants. High quality plants may carry a mediocre design, but single flowered Phalaenopsis or poor quality plants will kill your chances. Second is a good mix of foliage plants and natural wood props. Props and foliage must complement, not overpower the display by blending the materials together. I do not use other types of props, that's for artists and I'm not an artist. I also think it is inappropriate to use props that identify the exhibitor, it's best to keep things anonymous. It's important to create interesting spaces, openings, caves, holes, that complement flow and give resting places for the eye. Color flow is not as important in an island display. The use of contrasting colors can add a striking visual impact compared to grouping single colors together. You don't want your

display to look like a little group of yellows here and pinks over there. It's also important in an island display to be able to look through the display without distraction. The through view can affect your visual effect. Finally, don't overlook labels. They count for ten points. The size and color of labels should complement the display, they should not be distracting. Labels must be legible, but I personally hate machine labels that you tape on colored backgrounds. They look manufactured and are often shiny. I prefer hand printed labels that are readable. Once, I used what I thought were very attractive sky blue labels and it cost me the show trophy. One of the judges told me to step back and look at my display - all you saw were the blue labels. They even stuck out more in a photo that showed how they destroyed an otherwise excellent display.

Any final suggestions?
Go to as many shows as you can. Critically look at the exhibits that win AOS Show Trophies and compare them to your exhibit. Talk to the people who have set them up. In our region, Terry Kennedy has also won many show trophies over the years which has led to interesting competition. Don't be afraid to ask judges for a critique of your display. Ask what's right and what's wrong with your display. Some judges might not feel comfortable in providing a critique: but others will give you their impressions to help you build better displays in the future. Ask more than one judge, you will get different opinions. This is especially true of judges from different regions where they may view things very differently, especially the use of props and themes.

Mario Ferrusi is a Judge at the Toronto Judging Center

Abstract: Unflasking orchids: do sterile plants benefit from inoculation with 'helper' organisms?

Zelmer, C. D., R. L. Peterson, and J. F. Gerrath
Dept. of Botany, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario,
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The removal of sterile-cultured orchid seedlings to greenhouse conditions (unflasking) often results in seedling mortality. Introductions of root-associated 'helper' organisms, such as selected bacteria, fungi or algae have been useful in improving the performance of other cultivated plants, and may be important to orchids as well. This paper reports the localization, isolation, culture,

characterization and symbiotic testing of organisms associated with the roots of Lady Slipper orchid (Cypripedium) species from the wild. Fungi, bacteria, and algae isolated from wild-collected root pieces of four Cypripedium species native to Ontario and Manitoba were cultured for identification. Selected strains were tested (alone or in combination with other organisms) for their effects on newly-unflasked Cypripedium reginae seedlings. Light, laser scanning confocal, and transmission electron microscopy were used to localize organisms in and on the root surfaces.

CONSERVATION OF THE GENETIC RESOURCES OF VANILLA

The only orchid of economic importance, other than ornamental, is Vanilla. Although *Vanilla tahitiensis* and *V. pompona* are grown in some scale, the majority of commercial vanilla comes from *V. planifolia*. *Vanilla planifolia* is probably endemic to the evergreen tropical forests of eastern Mexico, and the Caribbean watershed of Guatemala, Belize and Honduras. Wild specimens of *V. planifolia* are severely threatened in Mexico, where no more than 30 specimens have been located. There are no recent records from the other countries. *Vanilla planifolia* has hyperdispersed populations, with less than 1 plant/km. Pollination is carried out by Euglossine bees (*Euglossa viridissima*), and it involves a deception mechanism. Perhaps there are not large enough tracts of rainforest with viable *V. planifolia* populations to secure in situ conservation of this species.

Vanilla planifolia is a crop little different from the wild progenitors. This can be attributed to a limited breeding and a recent domestication. In Mexico there are two areas in which *V. planifolia* is grown in some extent, northern Veracruz, and northern Oaxaca. Plantations of northern Veracruz are ancient and the source of the majority of vanilla produced in Mexico, no wild populations are known in this area. Plantations in Oaxaca were established by the end of the 1980s from wild specimens from the region. Cultivars in *V. planifolia* (like the widely cultivated Mansa) may be an spontaneous wild specimen brought to cultivation by Totonaco Indians. Only two other cultivars are recognized by growers in the traditional plantations of northern Veracruz, one of them self-incompatible. All these data suggest that the primary gene pool of this crop maybe severely threatened by demographic causes in wild populations and by genetic erosion in plantations. To

evaluate this hypothesis we analyzed electrophoretic data of specimens from the plantations of northern Veracruz, from Oaxaca, and few others from elsewhere. The allozyme data show overall little genetic variation, large differentiation among plants from the two main areas, Veracruz and Oaxaca, an excess of homozygotes in Veracruz, and larger genotypic diversity and heterozygosity in Oaxaca. We also have detected nucleotide sequence variation within introns of a couple of specific protein-coding genes, namely the Calmodulin and the Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase in order to propose genealogies of *V. planifolia*. At present we have found enough variation that permits us to use these genomic regions as molecular markers for the recognition of the different cultivars and Oaxacan specimens. Since the primary gene pool is evidently threatened, the secondary gene pool, that is, the close relatives of *V. planifolia*, becomes more important as a source of desirable traits to be incorporated in the crop.

A phylogenetic framework of the genus *Vanilla* permits us to recognize which species could be the most appropriate sources of the desired traits. It has been indicated that traits like self-pollination, root-rot resistance, ability to maintain higher fruit sets, and less dependence of flower induction to photoperiod, could be desirable characters in vanilla as a crop. All these traits are found in its near relatives. The germplasm of *Vanilla planifolia* is threatened by deforestation and overcollecting. Most genetic diversity, that found in the plantations of Oaxaca, is threatened by the bad management of plantations. The establishment of gene banks is extremely urgent for this orchid that represent an important source of foreign exchange for several tropical countries. - *Miguel Angel Soto Arenas*

On the Web

Is your society on the web? It should be. The web is a good way of advertising your existence, what's happening and who to contact.

For a list of Canadian Orchid Societies and pointers to their web sites (if there is one) check:
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/cocmemb.html>

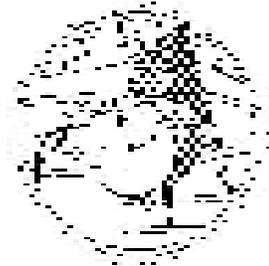
And two web sites that should be in your hotlist:

The Canadian Orchid Congress: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/coc.html>

The American Orchid Society OrchidWeb: <http://orchidweb.org/>

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For Registration Information Contact:

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E-mail: con99@venuefirst.com

1999 brings an unique opportunity to Canadian hobbyists to acquire flasks, seedlings, mericlones and blooming size orchid plants of a wide variety from the world over. A preliminary vendor list has been circulated to all COC member societies via their COC representative. Those readers having web access should check out the Vendor List at the WOC site <http://www.hedgerows.com/WOC99/>

Any Society that is attending should endeavor to bring a display, even if it just a small one. We would like to see as strong a Canadian presence as possible.

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WOC Show - Speakers

Wednesday, April 28

A Day of Conservation and Understanding

Chairperson: Peter Furniss, USA, / Eric Hagsater, Mexico

- Welcome from Peter Furniss / Wally Thomas
- An overview of orchids in the wild - recent status and threats - gone means forever! The role of IUCN - Phillip Cribb, Kew, UK
- The problems of ex-situ conservation - it is not easy! - Jim Ackerman, USA
- The role of societies and individuals in conservation. - Ned Nash, USA

Science for the Citizen Sessions

Chairpersons: Don Hermans, USA / Joyce Stewart, U.K.

- Understanding DNA - using gene transfer to make new orchids. It is coming soon. Such colours as you never dreamed possible! Rob Griesbach, USA
- How DNA analysis is changing how we think about the interrelationship between similar looking orchids. - Alex Pridgeon, U.K.
- Orchids from seed to flowering plant. - Yoneo Sagawa, USA
- Understanding viruses - what are they and what do they do? How are they transmitted and controlled? - Mark Elliott, USA

Science Conservation Sessions

Chairperson: Rapee Sagarik, Thailand

- The Stars of Africa --a new look at the genus Aerangis - Joyce Stewart, U.K.
- Orchid propagation. - Margaret Ramsay, Kew, U.K.
- Extinction models. - Harold Koopowitz, USA
- Genetic fingerprinting of orchids - Michael Fay, Kew, U.K.
- Orchid conservation initiatives in Southern China. - Lawrence Chau, Hong Kong

Thursday, April 29

Horticultural Sessions Odontoglossum Alliance

Chairpersons: Doug Kennedy, Terry Kennedy, Canada

- Endangered hybrids - Robert Hamilton, USA
- Odontoglossum "Taxonomically endangered" - Stig Dalstrom, Sweden
- Conservation in Columbia "Badnews" - Juan Phillipe Posada, Columbia
- Patterns of the equatorial Odontoglossum - Alex Hirtz, Ecuador
- Conservation - A working point of view - Sandro Cusi, Mexico

Chairpersons: Milton Carpenter, USA / Annette Bagby, Canada

- Lycastes - Henry Oakeley, U.K.
- Maxillaria - an overview of an extremely diverse Neotropical genus - Eric Christenson USA
- The new look Zygopodilum - Steve Monkhouse, Australia
- The subtribe Oncidiana "orchidaceae" in the Bolivian mountains - Roberto Vasquez Chavez, Bolivia
- Genetic relationship of Oncidium and Odontoglossum "Evidence from analysis of DNA sequences" - Mark Chase

Science Sessions Morphology/Anatomy

Chairpersons: Joseph Ardeti, USA / Will Rhodehamel

- Orchid embryology providing insights into evolution of orchids - Mark Clements, Australia
- By vitrification preservation of seeds of some Thai orchid species - Kanchit Thammasiri, Thailand
- Pollination ecology of South African orchids - Steve Johnson, South Africa
- Orchid seeds - simplicity begetting complexity - Mia Molvray, USA
- Orchid biogeography - Robert Dressler, USA

Chairpersons: Mark Elliott, Canada / Carol Baughman, USA

- Pollination of Paphiopedilum - Hans Banziger, Thailand
- Angraecoids and moth pollination - L. Anders Nilsson, Austria
- Computer Sessions

Friday, April 30

Horticultural Sessions

Chairperson: Kaston

Phalaenopsis Alliance Sessions

- Development of white Phalaenopsis - Wen Huie Chen, Taiwan
- Development of yellow and novelties Phalaenopsis - George Vasquez, USA
- Development of red Phalaenopsis - Carlos Firghetti, USA

Chairpersons: Ernest Hetherington, USA / Phillipe Lecoufle, France

- Rupicolous Laelia - Francisco Miranda, Brazil
- Psychillis species - Marvin Ragen, USA
- Cattleyas and Laelias of Brazilian central plateau - Lou Menezes, Brazil
- Cattleya breeding in Japan - Munekazu Ejiri, Japan
- Cattleyas from A to Z - Carl Withner, USA

Horticulture Sessions

Chairpersons: Carmen Coll

- South African orchid species - Joan Elvin, South Africa
- Disa Round Table
- The promiscuous Vanda - Kiat Tan, Singapore Botanical Gardens

Chairpersons: Donna Craig, USA / James Biro, Canada

- New and rediscovered species of Stanhopea - Rudolf Jenny, Switzerland
- Orchid exploration in Madagascar - Johan Hermans, U.K.
- Photography - Johan Hermans, U.K., Henry Oakeley, U.K., Moises Behar, Columbia
- Closing ceremony

World Orchid Conference Lectures

Chairpersons: Jeanette Arthur, Canada

- Cypripedium - John Doherty, Canada
- Outline of successful conservation program - Darlene Driver, Canada
- Myccorhiza in Orchids - Carla Zelmer, Canada
- Native species and conservation needs of Indian orchid species
- Orchid conservation in Mexico - Dr. Eric Hagsater, Mexico

Chairpersons: Gerald McCraith / Marjorie Disher, Canada

- Miniature species - Darren Smedley, Australia
- Native Australian orchids, - David Banks, Australia
- Conservation prospects for orchids in China - Holger Perner, Germany

Science Sessions

Chairpersons: Alistair Morrison, U.K..

- Molecular systematics and general orchid classification - Mark Chase, U.K.
- Molecular systematics of the Laelieae - Casio van den Burg, U.K.
- Molecular systematics of the Vanilloideae - Ken Cameron, USA
- Spiranthoideae - Paul Kores, USA

Chairperson: Don Harquail, Canada

- Population ecology of Canadian orchids - Marilyn Light, Canada
- Forcing requirements of Phalaenopsis - Nean Lee, Taiwan
- Hybrid zones and specialtion by hybridization in European orchids - Walter Rossi, Italy
- Isozymes of Cypripedium - Martha Case, USA

Saturday, May 1

Horticultural Sessions

Chairpersons: Vanciane Dumont, Switzerland / Gerd Rolke, Germany

- Update on parvisepalous Paphiopedilum orchids - Norito Hasagawa, USA
- Complex Paphiopedilums - Paul Phillips, U.K.
- The Don Wimber Memorial Lecture - Alan Moon, Jersey
- Cymbidium ensifolium - Theresa Fung, USA

Chairpersons: Paula Keeler, USA

- Florence H. Wollward 1854-1936, artist? botanist? - Steve Mannings, U.K.
- Ecuadorian Pleurothallids and their habitats - Alex Hirtz, Ecuador
- Who is eating your Pleurothallid salad and what can be done about it? - Gerardus Staal, USA
- Closing ceremony

Orchids as Gifts

On December 10, Marilyn Light led a discussion about orchids as gifts with the Orchid Safari chat group. During the chat, participants suggested that the production of a stand-alone fact sheet might be useful. This would be something that societies could download and reproduce for use at shows, etc. With the assistance of Lois Greer, OrchidSafari webmistress, and Michael MacConaill, photographer, Marilyn assembled a Fact Sheet as a publication of the Canadian Orchid Congress. This may be found at:

Fact Sheet: "Orchids as Gifts - Helpful Suggestions" by Marilyn H.S. Light, Canadian Orchid Congress, Copyright 1999
<http://www.orchidsafari.org/arch222..html>

Societies are welcome to reproduce this fact sheet in black and white or in colour. Credits should appear where appropriate. Details about the discussion and pre-chat materials may be found at:

Orchid Conservation Series on Orchid Safari Part 18:
Orchids as Gifts Moderator: Marilyn H.S. Light
WBS, Wed 9 Dec 98
<http://www.orchidsafari.org/arch217.html>

Pre-discussion Mailout:
"Orchids as Gifts", by Marilyn H.S. Light, Copyright 1998
<http://www.orchidsafari.org/arch221.html>

UPCOMINGEVENTS

February 13 - 14: Southern Ontario Orchid Society, Toronto Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E at Leslie St., Toronto, Ont.

February 13 - 21: The Orchid Society of Alberta, the Muttart Conservatory. Contact: rmerz@telusplanet.net or Rod Merz, 527 Pardee Bay, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5T 5Y9 Phone: 403-460-1283

March 6 - 7: London Orchid Society, Wonderland Gardens, London, Ont.

March 19 - 21: The Manitoba Orchid Society, at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory, 2355 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg. This year's theme is "Orchid Fiesta". Contact Gerry King at (204) 654-0459

March 27 - 28: Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd., Burlington

April 10 - 11: Kingston Orchid Society, Beechgrove Centre, King St W near Portsmouth Village, Kingston, Ontario
Contact: Cal Carter 613-389-7414 cscarter@istar.ca

April 23 - May 2: 16th World Orchid Congress 1999 and Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia Hosted by the Vancouver Orchid Society,
For Registration Information contact:

World Orchid Conference 1999
c/o Venu West Conference Services
#645 - 375 Water Street,
Vancouver BC Canada V6B 5C6
Tel. (604)-681-5226
Fax. (604)-681-2503

Email: congress@venuest.com

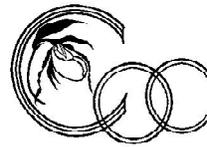
On the web: www.hedgerows.com/WOC99/

Douglas Allison and Eleanor Holwerda are Society Liasons of the WOC.

The Vancouver Orchid Society /
1999 World Orchid Conference,
309-7631 Steveston Hwy
Richmond, B.C. CANADA V7A 4L7
phone(604)272-0174
email: djallisn@dowco.com

March 3 - 5, 2000: Orchid Odyssey, COC Show, London, Ont.
Contact: Judy Worrall, jworrall@ciaccess.com or by snail mail: Judy Worrall, London Orchid Society, Suite 162, 509 Commissioners Rd. W., London, Ont., N6J 1Y5. Phone: 519 471-2027

Please send in your show information - date, location, contact, etc.



news

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The purpose of COC news is to inform members of the meetings, policies of the COC, to profile members, and to provide technical information regarding happenings, trends and techniques in orchid cultivation across the country and around the world.

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. Deadline for each issue is one month before the issue dates previously announced.

Recipients of this newsletter are strongly urged to pass a copy on to other members of their society

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