

news

Volume 12 - September 1999

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We orchid hobbyists have a great thing going. Wherever we may be, in the office, at the bank or supermarket, or in a doctor's waiting room, when we mention that we grow 'orchids', strangers immediately smile and express kind thoughts. Orchids mean something special to almost anyone we meet. They seem to conjure up images of beauty, fragrance and fragility. That we grow orchids, that we have a close relationship with that most prized flower, seems to be a perfect 'ice breaker'.

All of us started out in this hobby as beginners. We probably saw our first orchid at a show and were bitten by the 'orchid bug'. We purchased a plant, joined a club and began our orchid adventure. Those of us who have been afflicted with the orchid bug for quite a long time now probably have a similar challenge. Can we find space for one more orchid!

I always marvel at how well my orchids make the annual transition from an 'under lights' existence to their temporary home in a summer shadehouse. A sure sign of their content is the appearance of growing roots and shinier, more substantial foliage. This season is no exception, at least in much of Ontario and Quebec. During our record hot summer in eastern and central Canada, even the cooler growing orchids seem to be thriving. Perhaps the constant breeze (air movement) and the day/night temperature differential of approximately 10 degrees is primarily responsible. If orchids respond so readily to natural conditions we have all the more reason to pay attention to air movement and temperature variation during the winter months when plants must survive with what we offer. Cool weather will soon be upon us and my plants will be returned to their indoor home. I resolve to make their home a happier one where they will thrive and not simply survive.

Marilyn Light
President and Conservation Committee Chair

Those of us who were fortunate to be able to attend the 16th World Orchid Conference in Vancouver had a real treat. First, the weather was mainly sunny for the whole week! For Vancouver which has suffered through days of continual precipitation last winter and again this summer, it seems that the orchid gods were shining on that sterling event which attracted over 1500 international registrants and thousands of daily show visitors. There was the unique chance to strike up a conversation with like-minded growers from around the world, and for Canadians, a welcome opportunity to purchase plants without the concern of returning home across a border. There were a wide range of species orchids from South and Central America with knowledgeable vendors ready and willing to share cultural information with prospective buyers. The show was never overly crowded and there were lots of places where one could sit and chat awhile. It seemed to me that the spirit of sharing and caring was maintained throughout the event. Lots of new orchid friends were made and cultural notes compared. Surely some orchids in our collections will now benefit from that 'cultural exchange'.

Among the many award winners at the WOC were Nancy Tozer (ECOS) who a Silver Award for her informative stamp display and for her Educational Exhibit. The Vancouver OS won an award for the Best Society Exhibit.

COC medals presented with appreciation to WOC Committee

The COC has expressed their special thanks on behalf of all member societies by presenting a mounted COC Medal to each WOC Conference Chairperson: Douglas Allison, Marjorie Disher, and Dr. Wally Thomas. A medal was sent to the family of the late Dewayne Klobas who passed away before his role could be completed. COC Vice-president, Lynne Cassidy, made the presentations on June 26 during the Vancouver Orchid Society annual general meeting.

Some facts about the COC

As of January 1999, there were 25 member societies with a total of 2315 individual members or an average of 96 members per society. The largest society is the Southern Ontario OS followed closely by the Vancouver OS.

Conservation was the theme of the recent WOC and it was clear from discussions with many of those doing work in the field that actions must take place on a global as well as on a regional level if we are to make progress. In Issue 1 of the Orchid Conservation News, published by the Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, 'Priority Actions for the Orchid Specialist Group' are discussed. Once members of the OSG agree to the priorities, we need to get going with conservation action including in situ and ex situ conservation, education, project funding, and information gathering. There is a lot to do even for a relatively orchid-poor country such as Canada.

What Canadian hobbyists can do is patronize nurseries selling artificially propagated plants, support orchid species breeding programs in botanical gardens and similar institutions, and keep species orchids healthy and thriving in their collections.

Profile of Member Societies - Orchid Society of Nova Scotia

This relatively young society incorporated in 1981 is still growing with approximately 80 members in 1999. They stage two shows annually! The popular spring show held at the Maritime Museum attracts about 1000 visitors. Admission is free. A fall show staged at the Chester Basin Firehall was initiated at the request of the Garden Club to promote orchids as houseplants. It is also well attended.

One of biggest challenges facing members of the OSNS is the supply of orchids. There is one local store and some vendors but as well all know, hobbyists have a thirst for new plants. Group orders are important. Members like to try unusual plants and to grow selected specimens to their award potential.

OSNS members meet at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. Their show table is sight to behold! The June table was overflowing with Cattleyas, Phals and various botanicals including a beautiful *Rodriguesia venusta*.

This enthusiastic Society has already hosted their first COC meeting and look forward to another opportunity in a few years. We can hardly wait to see their beautiful orchids and enjoy their famous hospitality.

London, Ontario will be the Site of next COC convention

The London Orchid Society has announced that the Canadian Orchid Congress combined Show 'Orchid Odyssey 2000' will be held on March 4-5, 2000 at the Wonderland Gardens, 284 Wonderland Road South, London ON. There will be displays, theatre and vendors for all visitors as well as Speakers (Mario Ferrusi, Bob Gordon, Norito Hasegawa, Doug Kennedy and Marilyn Light), a COC Support Auction and Banquet for registered attendees. Mark this in your calendars and be prepared for a premier event. Look for more information soon. For information please call: (519) 433-6712 or (519) 471-2027. or check out their new web site: <http://los.lon.imag.net> See you there!

Your new executive

The COC Executive is unchanged from the 1998-99 roster. Lynne Cassidy is able to take a more active role as Vice-President in 1999-2000 since the WOC committee chores are over. Jeanette Arthurs, Past-President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee <arthurs@cyberus.ca> will soon be preparing a slate for presentation to delegates at the AGM in London.

Jerry Bolce, Newsletter Editor and now web master, has been working on the COC web site. Check it out! Jerry welcomes all COC members societies to link their home pages with the COC site. The COC web site is: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/coc.html>

slide programs in the making

Gordon Heaps and Ken Girard are working on two educational slide programs about Cattleyas and Oncidiums and their culture. Marilyn Light has developed a program on the topic of Fragrant Orchids. This was presented to the Orchid Society of Nova Scotia in June. We eventually plan on having at least two copies of each slide program available for clubs on a first come, first serve basis. Booking arrangements and regional coordination are being worked out.

Canada Post issues a special native orchid series to coincide with the WOC

By the time you read this newsletter most if not all of you will know about and will have probably seen, purchased, or even used the lovely set of four stamps depicting *Amerorchis rotundifolia*, *Arethusa bulbosa*, *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* and *Platanthera psycodes*. Some societies purchased a lot of these stamps to use on society mailings. Great idea! It should still not be too late to purchase some stamps which should be available for six months from date of issue or until quantities last.

Dick Kock, Huronview Nurseries, and a member of several southwestern Ontario societies, disclosed that the stamp issue was an idea he floated with Canada Post a few years back. When they contacted him earlier this year to let him know that a special issue was in the making, he was delighted. Bravo Dick!

Orchid Course offered in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley

An interesting orchid course is now being offered to seniors in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Co-sponsored by the Fraser Valley OS, the program is designed for persons intrigued and fascinated by these beautiful flowers. Beginners and more advanced students are welcome to explore the mystique of growing orchids. The guiding light of the TALK program (Third Age Learning at Kwatien) is Win Hunter also a member of the Fraser Valley OS.

The first two-hour session dealing with orchid natural history and habitat is presented by Dean Mulyk, President of FVOS and Lab Manager of Brookside Orchid Gardens. The second session deals with both the care of orchids (Dean Mulyk) and Plants in Crisis. Participants are invited to bring their 'sad orchids' for discussion and suggestions regarding their care. Russ Volker, AOS Judge and Founding Member of the FVOS presents and discusses a show table to round off what must be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all.

Thank you to Lynne Cassidy for providing this news.

Parvisepalum Paphs

The subgenus *Parvisepalum* of the genus *Paphiopedilum* was created by Karasawa and Saito as recently as 1982. The seven species in this subgenus usually bear single flowers, large and spectacularly colored, and include *P. delenatii* from Vietnam, and four well-known species from China near the Vietnamese border: *P. armeniacum*, *P. malipoense*, *P. micranthum*, and *P. emersonii*. Two little-known and recently discovered "species" are considered by some to be varieties of *P. malipoense*: *P. hiepii* Averyanov and *P. jackii* Hua. The small plants of the species in subgenus *Parvisepalum* are usually characterized by tessellated foliage, and stoloniferous offshoots which emerge from the base of the crown. In nature, plants typically grow on the top or sides of limestone buttresses with rivulets running nearby. The stolons play a part in species distribution by breaking off the mother plant and being carried downstream to new locations. The flowers of these species have wide, rounded petals, incurved pouch edges, granular rather than waxy pollen, and stigmatic surfaces with small recurving projections (like Velcro) to which the pollen can adhere.

One natural hybrid has been found to date, a cross of *P. malipoense* and *P. micranthum*, which Dr. Harold Koopowitz of Paphanatics named *P. x fanaticum* due to the fanatical attention these plants have elicited from orchidists.

Two plants of the beautiful delicate pink *Paph. delenatii* Guill. were discovered in northern Vietnam in the early 20th century. One was made into a dried and pressed horticultural specimen, therefore all the plants of this species which have been available for cultivation and hybridizing until recent years are derived from selfings and sibling crosses from the second plant. However, a new population of this species has now been discovered in the wild, and a greater variety of genetic material is available. *P. delenatii* differs from the "Chinese Parvis" in that the plant habit of *P. delenatii* is clumping, and it may produce 1-3 flowers per inflorescence. This species can be one of the easier "Parvi Paphs" to grow. It requires moderate light, intermediate to warm temperatures, good air circulation, perfect drainage, and even moisture. In the wild *P. delenatii* grows in detritus-filled crevices of limestone outcroppings, so in cultivation it needs calcium in its potting mix. The first hybrids appeared in 1936. Since then, 186 progeny of *P. delenatii* have been registered (through October, 1998). The American Orchid Society has given 55 awards to the species, including four cultural awards for specimen plants. One of the hybrids most often awarded is *P. Armeni White* (*x armeniacum*). This is a cross of a pink and a yellow flower, but the progeny are (you guess it) white.

This is possible because the pink *P. delenatii* suppresses yellow color (except for the staminode color which is inherited separately) and the yellow *P. armeniacum* suppresses pink color. Other frequently-awarded hybrids of *P. delenatii* are *P. Black Diamond* (*x P. fairrieianum*), *P. Delrosi* (*x P. rothschildianum*), *P. Delophyllum* (*x P. glaucophyllum*), *P. Deperle* (*x P. primulinum*), *P. Joyce Hasegawa* (*x P. emersonii*), *P. Magic Lantern* (*x P. micranthum*), and *P. Vanda M. Pearman* (*x P. bellatulum*). *P. Vanda M. Pearman* is the most-awarded of these hybrids, with 65 AOS awards.

P. armeniacum Chen & Liu was the first of the Chinese *Parvisepalum Paphs* to become available, having been exported from China in 1982. This spectacular chrome yellow species caused a stir in the Judging world when the first plant seen by AOS Judges was given a First Class Certificate, the highest quality award possible from the AOS. Different cultivars of *P. armeniacum* have received 89 AOS awards to date, including 18 coveted FCC's. In this short period of time there have been 51 hybrids registered with *P. armeniacum* as one parent, and in addition there are three second-generation hybrids. The most-awarded grexes by the AOS are *P. Armeni White* (*x P. delenatii*) mentioned above, *P. Dollgoldi* (*x P. rothschildianum*) *P. Fumi's Delight* (*x P. micranthum*), *P. Goldollar* (*x P. primulinum*), *P. Norito Hasegawa* (*x P. malipoense*), *P. Wossner Bellarmi* (*x P. bellatulum*), and *P. Golden Diamond* (*x P. fairrieianum*). The desirable intense yellow color was obtainable in progeny especially if the other parent was also yellow. Yellow coloration could be passed on by the pollen parent. The most pleasing hybrids to date have been between species in the subgenus *Parvisepalum*, or with a Parvi and a species in section *Brachypetalum* (usually *P. bellatulum*). Hybrids with a Parvi and a multifloral are being tried, with mixed results. One success is *P. Dollgoldi* (*armeniaceum x rothschildianum*) which produces large brilliant yellow flowers with some striping in the petals, and a very pleasing triangular shape. The stoloniferous plant habit appears to be a recessive trait.

P. micranthum Tang & Wang is most memorable for its large bubblegum-pink pouch, however the flower color may also be white or mauve. In nature this species rests during the winter, its tough leaves withstanding cold dry winds and little moisture until the monsoons come in the spring. There have been 114 AOS awards to this spectacular species including eight First Class Certificates.

P. micranthum has 35 registered progeny. Hybrids awarded by the AOS are *P. Fumi's Delight* (x *P. armeniacum*), *P. Gloria Naugle* (x *P. rothschildianum*), *P. Kevin Porter* (x *P. bellatulum*), *P. Magic Lantern* (x *P. delenatii*) and *P. Tanja Pinkepank* (x *P. fairrieianum*). *P. Magic Lantern*, a cross of two pink flowers, has produced even darker pinks, with shapes intermediate between the two parents. *P. delenatii* suppresses all yellow color in the petals, but intensifies the dark petal veins. The staminode retains intense yellow and red colors. *P. Kevin Porter* can be an even more stunning flower, with brilliant dark pink to deep burgundy tones. Shape and pouch size is intermediate between the two parents. Crosses with another "Parvi Paph" or with a section *Brachypetalum* (*P. bellatulum*), and also the use of *P. rothschildianum* and *P. fairrieianum*, appear to produce the most pleasing flowers.

P. malipoense Chen & Tsi was first drawn and described in 1984 based on a flower collected in 1947 from the Yunnan Province of China, and dried by K.M. Feng. The flowers of this species are apple green to avocado green and slightly fragrant of raspberry. Leaves are soft and fleshy; the plant is usually found under bamboo thickets, in deep pits and in the stones along water seepage, protected from dry winter winds. There have been 66 AOS awards to this species including one First Class Certificate to the cultivar "Jolly Green Giant." The name tells its story. There are 33 registered progeny of *P. malipoense*. The hybrids most often awarded by the AOS include *P. Norito Hasegawa* (x *P. armeniacum*) mentioned above, *P. Lynleigh Koopowitz* (x *P. delenatii*), *P. Ma Belle* (x *P. bellatulum*), *P. Mem. Larry Heuer* (x *P. emersonii*), *P. Harold Koopowitz* (x *P. rothschildianum*), and *P. Wossner Jade* (x *P. niveum*). Again, the most pleasing hybrids appear to be between "Parvi Paphs", and between a "Parvi Paph" and a *Paphiopedilum* in section *Brachypetalum* (*P. bellatulum*, *P. niveum*). The only multifloral hybrid awarded is again with *P. rothschildianum*.

P. emersonii Koopowitz & Cribb has the largest flower of the "Parvi Paphs." Its white color lightly spotted with purple originally held promise for large-flowered pure white Paph hybrids. However, this goal has not been realized, to date. This species has received 16 quality awards from the AOS. There are currently 24 registered progeny of *P. emersonii*. Hybrids most often recognized by the AOS are *P. Joyce Hasegawa* (x *P. delenatii*), and *P. Memoria Larry Heuer* (x *P. malipoense*), both crosses within the subgenus *Parvisepalum*, and two unusual hybrids with a complex *Brachypetalum Paphiopedilum* hybrid as the other parent, *P. Kabuki Moon* (x *P. Virgo*) and *P. Wintermoon* (x *P. Greyi*).

In summary, due to the newness of the *Parvisepalum Paphiopedilum* in cultivation, hybridization with the species in this subgenus has just begun. The most successful hybrids to date have been within the subgenus, or between "Parvi Paphs" and a species in section *Brachypetalum*, usually *P. bellatulum*. Hybrids with *P. rothschildianum* and *P. fairrieianum* have also produced awardable flowers. No second generation hybrids have as of yet been awarded by the AOS.

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Speaker tour

Vice-President Lynne Cassidy has taken on the task of organizing speakers tours on a regional basis with the regions being roughly: BC and Alberta (Ingrid Ostrander, Coordinator), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (Coordinator to be named), Ontario and Québec (Coordinator to be named), and the Maritimes (Gail Swarz, OSNS). It is understood that the speaker will determine how extensive a circuit can be managed. Occasionally regions may overlap according to available flights and interest.

The first tour being organized is for Steve Skoien (Hawaii), an AOS judge and commercial grower well known on the West Coast. He is booked for November for Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg.

Gail Swarz (OSNS) has confirmed John Doherty as a speaker but no date has yet been finalized. John's area of interest is *Cypripediums*.

Lynne is hopeful that we can arrange a Canada-wide tour for Francisco Miranda, a Brazilian now residing in Florida. Possible topics include: *Cattleyas* of Brazil, *Laelias* of Brazil, *Rupicolous* orchids, *Catasetums*, *Orchids* from the Brazilian Amazon and *Orchids* of Rio de Janeiro State. We look forward to hearing more about this interesting opportunity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 25 - 26: Central Ontario Orchid Society, new location - Peter Clark Hall at the University of Guelph, Guelph

Oct 2 - 3: Foothills Orchid Society, Winston Heights Mountview Community Center, 520 - 27 AVE N.E., Calgary, for more info: Call Pat (403) 241-0525; or Email Ross Otto at: raotto@ibm.net

Oct 30 - 31: Eastern Canada OS, Days Inn, Montreal Metro Centre, 1005 Rue Guy, Montreal, Quebec. Contact Judy Adams 450-467-4795.

Nov 6 - 7: Niagara Region OS, Queen Elizabeth Centre, Facer St. (QEW and Niagara St), St Catherines

2000

February 12 - 13: Southern Ontario Orchid Society, Toronto Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E at Leslie St., Toronto, Ontario.

March 3 - 5: 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

March 25 - 26: Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens, the 19th annual Show, 680 Plains Rd., Burlington, ON. Contact: Jim Brasch at jbrasch@mcmaster.ca

April 1 - 2: Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Show, College de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere St., Montreal, Quebec. For more information: <http://www.dunord.com/orchidophiles>

April 29 - 30: Ottawa Orchid Society show, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave., Nepean

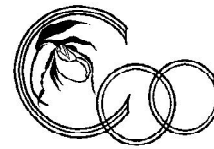
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COC Web Site:

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/coc.html>

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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