

# news

Volume 19.1 - January 2007

## Contents

Wiki Wiki

Ken Girard

Paph hirsutissimum

Native Orchids in the Garden

COC 2007 AGM Agenda

COC 2006 AGM Minutes

Two Winners

Coming Events

## From the President

Happy New Year COC Member Societies

This year the COC AGM will be graciously hosted by the Manitoba Orchid Society in conjunction with their show and sale, March 23-25, 2007. This meeting is very early in the year so I ask that you review the agenda and plan to attend the AGM on March 25. However if no one from your society can make the meeting, please look over the issues on the agenda and send in your concerns (and your votes for the items) to, Faithe Prodanuk, at [faithep@shaw.ca](mailto:faithep@shaw.ca) no later than March 15, 2007. I hope to see many of you in Winnipeg.

*Faithe Prodanuk, COC President*

## The COC AGM and Manitoba Orchid Society Show

Checkout the Manitoba OS website for details. The vendors will bring orders to the show, so have a look at their websites. Sign up to hear the great speakers.

### Speakers

Eric Cristenson  
Cordelia Head  
Sam Tsui  
Mario Ferrusi  
Kathy Creger

### Vendors

Ever Spring Orchids <http://www.everspringorchids.com/>  
Orchids by Kimberly <http://members.shaw.ca/orchidsbykimberly/>  
Wild Orchidaceae  
Orchids in Our Tropics <http://www.orchidsinourtropics.com/>  
Marsh Hollow Orchids  
Mike Gabrielson  
J&L Orchids <http://www.jlorchids.com/>  
Orchid Inn, Ltd. <http://www.orchidinnusa.com/>

<http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca/show.htm>

## Wiki Wiki

What if you started up a website and let anyone add, alter, or rewrite any of the web pages? Sounds like an invitation to chaos. Well, that is the concept behind wikipedia.com - an online encyclopedia where anyone can add or alter the content. And it has proven to be quite successful. Started in 2001, there are currently 1,555,901 articles in English and 370,000 pages in a multitude of other languages. "Wiki" is derived from a Hawaiian-language word for fast.

What we have is a form of collaborative authoring. Documents are created easily and updated with a web browser using a simple markup language. Wikis are generally designed with the philosophy of making it easy to correct mistakes, rather than making it difficult to make them. Thus while wikis are very open, they provide a means to verify the validity of recent additions to the body of pages. The approach of making damage easy to undo rather than attempting to prevent damage has been characterized as soft security.

Today there are many different wikis, covering a wide range of interests. For a list see:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_wikis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wikis)

The orchid community should be interested in the root page on the orchid family  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchidaceae>  
or looking at the list of orchid genera  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Orchidaceae\\_genera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Orchidaceae_genera)  
or orchid taxonomy  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy\\_of\\_the\\_Orchid\\_family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy_of_the_Orchid_family)

As an exercise, search for your favorite orchid genus and see what is offered. And don't forget that even you can show your expertise by adding a page or two to the encyclopedia. - *Jerry Bolce*

## NROS web site

The Niagara Region Orchid Society has a new website  
"<http://www.niagaraorchidsociety.org/>"

Material in this newsletter or on the COC website may be reprinted in society newsletters - just make sure you attribute the author and the COC.

## Ken Girard

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Ken Girard on December 1 following a short but losing fight with cancer.

Ken was a major figure in the Foothills Orchid Society, the Canadian Orchid Congress and the American Orchid Society judging system in this region. Most recently, he was instrumental in the establishment of the AOS Vancouver Judging Center. As well as the Foothills Orchid Society, Ken has also played a major role in the Calgary Horticultural Society and was well known in all areas of the horticultural profession and industry in Calgary and Alberta. Ken's loss will be felt throughout Western Canada where he has spoken tirelessly on orchid topics. He shared his love of orchids with anyone who would listen.

Ken's lively company and his tireless efforts to advance the wellbeing of the Society and the art of orchid growing will be sadly missed by all.

*The Executive, Foothills Orchid Society*

## WAOS Show and Conference

The Western Australian Orchid Spectacular and Conference 2008, 26th to 29th September will feature massed Orchid Displays by all the WA Orchid Societies as well as Orchid Vendors from across Australia and overseas.  
<http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/WAOS.html>



The WAOS Logo is *Thelymitra variegata*, found only in the southwest corner of Western Australia

## Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum (Lindl.) Pfitz.

When we see flowers of the lady slippers from South-East Asia, many of them are difficult to tell apart: Is it *Paph. insigne* or *barbigerum*? Is it *Paph. chamberlainianum* or *victoria mariae*? With *Paph. hirsutissimum*, we don't have this problem – the plants are readily recognised by their rather hairy flowers, ovaries and peduncles. In addition, there are blunt, paddle shaped petals with curly upper margins and the colours go from overall golden brown to glowing magenta petal tips. Total plant height does not exceed 35 cm and the leaves are solid green.

The first representatives of this species were collected and sent to England by Mr. Simon in 1857. Sir William Hooker described them in a botanical paper. You see, unless a new plant species has been properly described and published, in LATIN for the scientists, it does not officially exist; this ruling was established January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1935. The epithet "*hirsutissimum*" was coined by John Lindley, because of the noticeable hairiness of the flower parts. So now, thanks to Mr. Simon, Sir W. Hooker and J. Lindley, this "Most Hairy Lady Slipper" really exists. Of course now, 160 years later, there have been other "hairy" slipper orchids discovered. There is, for instance *Paph. sangii*, which is also quite hirsute.

The original plants were collected in North East India where they grow in leaf litter under shady trees on the ground or between cracks in limestone cliffs. The winters (close to the Himalayas) can be rather cool (10C) and the summers can be quite hot (40C). In captivity, they enjoy regular misting and fairly heavy watering during the warm season. Blooming time is from spring to fall; flowers should form on 3-year old growths. In the wild, undisturbed plants can have up to 20 mature growths, which should look impressive when they all bloom at once! There is a very similar variety of the Indian plant, described in 1982 by Mr. Esquirol and recognized now as *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* variety *esquirolei*. It comes from a large area including Southern China, Vietnam and North Eastern Thailand. It likes temperatures a little warmer than its Western cousins, its colours can be a little paler, the hairs are somewhat shorter and in overall size is a little smaller – we might call it the "Smaller Hairy One". Its culture is the same as for the original species.

Over the years, other, similar plants have been found. The variety name '*chiwuanum*' is now not valid anymore, they were immature specimens. An *alba* form exists which lacks any red pigmentation in the flowers. There is also a peloric

kind of this species, the *Paph. hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei* forma *saccopetalum*, found in 1998 in China. Dr. P. Cribb calls it a *teratological* form, meaning that the pouch and the petals look very similar, something which had been discussed by Mr. Masters as early as 1894.

If you can grow the Paphiopedilums from S.E. Asia and want to have impressive looking flowers, try to get a *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* or one of its varieties and be proud when you see it bloom.

Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander



The Manitoba Orchid Society  
is pleased to host  
The 2007 Annual Meeting  
of the  
Canadian Orchid Congress  
in conjunction with



"Orchid  
Fascination"  
Annual Spring Orchid Show and Sale  
March 23, 24 & 25, 2007  
Assiniboine Park Conservatory  
15 Conservatory Drive  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia

THE website for species orchids compiled by Jay Pfahl.

You will find data on 6435 species in 632 genera.

<http://www.orchidspecies.com/>

# Trying to Keep Native Orchids in the Garden

Right from the start, I have to warn you that this is not recommended!

As most of us know, the native Canadian orchids are terrestrial herbs that go dormant during the winter. Two of the most common ones, having circumpolar distribution are *Cypripedium* with several species and *Calypso bulbosa*. There are also Tway Blades (*Listera*), Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes*), Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera*) and some saprophytic ones like Phantom Orchids (*Cephalanthera austinae*), Coral Root Orchids (*Corallorhiza*) and several others. The locally common yellow Lady Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus* and others species closely related) is a fairly robust plant, growing 30 - 40 cm high; the yellow flowers can be 10 cm across and smell like roses. The much smaller rosy *Calypso bulbosa* grows only about 15 cm tall, blooms between April - May, having one small leaf per plant and starts its dormancy in the summer.

Some people have successfully transplanted some *Cypripediums* into their gardens, when the wild plants came from very nearby, to save them from "Road Improvements". Please, do not even try to save the *Calypsos* - they will never make it away from their homes. You may have a slim chance to help wild orchids survive if they come from an area that is very close to your garden. Do not try to establish wild Canadian orchids in your yard when they come from climates and habitats different from your particular area. Our gardens are not natural environments - they have been disturbed and manipulated for years. The wild orchids need their natural ecosystem in which they have evolved over millennia. Move them away from their homes and they will die; they may perhaps linger for a few years, but will not stay for long. This goes particularly for the saprophytic plants - please do leave them alone!

There are many wild orchids in our country, in bogs, in mountain meadows, in ditches, in dry shrubby grounds, in cow pastures, in forest clearings - wherever you see them, admire them, take photos but please: DON'T DIG THEM UP!

You can read about them on the internet and I have found a few books very useful:

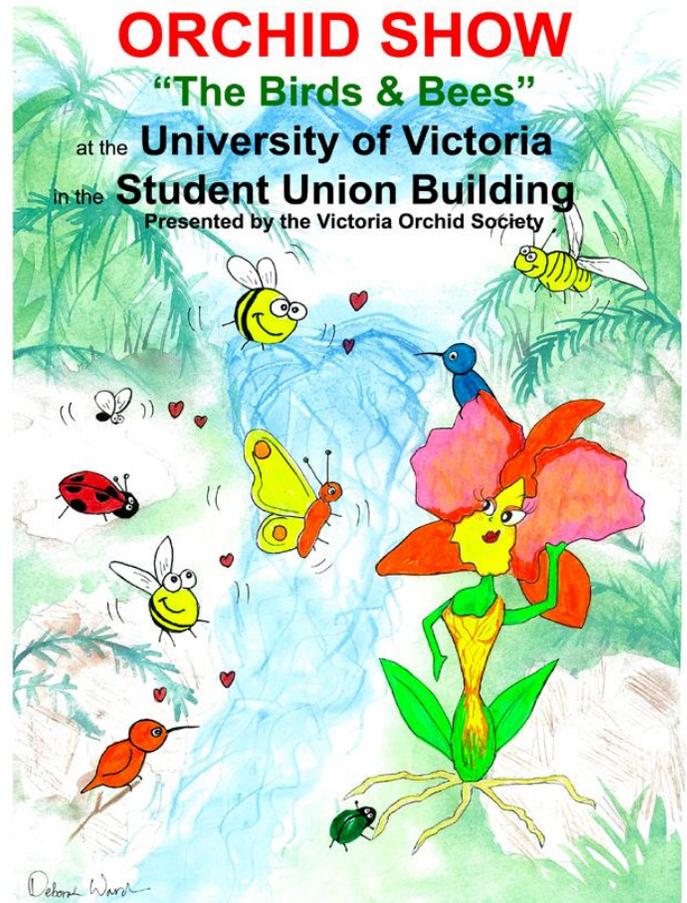
Guide to Orchids of North America, by W. Petrie, (Hancock House Publ.)

The Orchids of British Columbia, by A.F. Szczawinsky (BC Provincial Museum Publ.)

Orchids of Oregon, by Rick Burian et al. (Oregon Orchid Society Publ.)

The nice thing about these three publications is that they have distribution maps.

- Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander



**Saturday March 3, 2007 9am - 5pm**  
**Sunday March 4, 2007 10am - 3pm**  
**Lectures...Demonstrations...Plant sales**  
For further information phone 250-652-3078



*Paph. hirsutissimum*

# COC – 20<sup>th</sup> AGM Agenda

**March 25, 2007@09:30AM Winnipeg, MN**

Call to order. Welcome!

Attendance list to be signed by all, indicating whether a delegate or executive member.

Declaration of Notice and Quorum.

Adoption of minutes from the 2005 mail-out regarding COC business in lieu of COC AGM.

Business arising from the minutes

Correspondence

Reports of the Officers:

- Treasurer's Report
- President's Report
- Secretary's Report

Reports of other Committees/Members

- Newsletter/website
- Medals & pins
- Other

Review of Bylaws

New Business :

1. COC speaker's tour:
  - a. For the East
  - b. For the West
  - c. Review of subsidy policy
2. Hosts for upcoming COC meetings. Issues arising regarding COC meetings.
3. COC Website
  - a. Changes/Additions?
  - b. Is society info received/updated promptly? Changes for improvement?
  - c. Is vendor list current? Who should do this?
  - d. Chebucto website provider
4. Newsletter
  - a. Changes needed/desired?
  - b. Should someone be in charge of procuring articles for each newsletter?
  - c. Can we have a question and answer part to the newsletter? Members could submit questions

and these would be published in the newsletter with an answer.

- d. Addition of a native orchid site?-Lorne Heshka indicated earlier that he would be willing to help with this.
5. Slide programs
    - a. Review of current programs
    - b. Addition of programs on Phalaenopsis, Cypripedium, Masdevallias, Draculas, others?
    - c. Should current slides be put on disk?
    - d. Require someone to look after this
  6. Written Orchid related materials- A orchid member has written articles and donated them to COC to use as we see appropriate.
    - a. What should be done with these?
    - b. Format? Bound?
  7. Orchid importation issues
    - a. Follow-up to Ag Canada
    - b. Plant rescue issues
  8. Future meeting dates:  
2008: Ottawa  
2009  
2010

Appointment of auditor

Election of Officers

President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Webmaster, Education, Show awards, Conservation, and Newsletter. Anyone wanting to stand for any position, please contact Margaret Blewett.

· The Past President, Margaret Blewett, will take over the meeting. Anyone nominating someone should first get permission from the nominee.

· Declare the new executive as voted into office.

Other Business

Adjournment

## **Haiku by Buson**

An evening orchid,  
Hidden in its scent,  
The flower's whiteness.

## **Dead orchid haiku**

Dessicated shoots  
Another plant bites the dust  
Black thumb strikes again

# Minutes of the COC 2006 AGM

The 2006 AGM was scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Summer Orchid Fest in Toronto, Ontario on Aug 6, 2006. Lack of delegate registration resulted in the cancellation of the meeting and alternate methods for getting information to member Societies and their votes on agenda items were considered. The executive agreed that electronic contact would work best.

The COC Annual General Meeting was conducted by mail with each member society receiving a copy of reports from all executive members. Motions to receive the financial report, and appoint auditors for the upcoming year were submitted by the treasurer and voted on by each member society by a ballot included with the annual reports of the officers. The appointment of Don Wuschke as auditor for the coming year was approved by the membership.

In addition to receiving the reports of the executive, each society received the list of new officers for 2007 from the chairman of the nominating committee. All offices were filled by acclamation, therefore a vote was not required, however each member society indicated their approval of the nominating report.

Officers for 2007 are: President, Faithe Prodanuk, First Vice President, Jean Hellebone; Second Vice President, Terry Zdan; Secretary Terry Kennedy; Treasurer Janette Richardson

Appointments to be confirmed by the president are Conservation: Marilyn Light; Education Mark Elliott; Newsletter Editor/Web master Jerry Bolce; Insurance Lynne Cassidy  
Past President: Margaret Blewett

This is the first year that each member society has received a complete copy of all annual reports and a mail in ballot which was to be returned following discussion within each member society. October 15, 2006 was set as a deadline for society responses. A total of 18 societies replied out of 30 member societies. 16 by email and 2 by letter.

The 2007 Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held in Winnipeg Manitoba Sunday March 25th at 9:30 a.m. The invitation received from Ottawa to hold the 2008 meeting in conjunction with their show has been accepted. Member societies are asked to support the COC by attending these up coming meetings and enter into the discussion of furthering the pursuit of orchid hobbyist growing in Canada."

List of Societies that responded:

By email:

- 1 Regina Os
- 2 Sask Orchid Society
- 3 CVIOS
- 4 Kingston Orchid Society
- 5 The Fraser Valley Orchid Society
- 6 Ottawa Orchid Society
- 7 Okanagan Orchid Society
- 8 The OS of the Royal Botanical Gardens
- 9 Orchid Species Preservation Foundation
- 10 Victoria Orchid Society
- 11 Manitoba Orchid Society,
- 12 SOOS
- 13 Chinook Country Orchid Society
- 14 Vancouver Orchid Society
- 15 Durham Region Orchid Society
- 16 Niagara Region Orchid Society

And by letter:

Toronto Artistic Orchid Association

Les Orchiophiles de Quebec.

- Terry Kennedy, Secretary

## IUCN/SSC Orchid Specialist Group

The Orchid Specialist Group (OSG) of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of IUCN - The World Conservation Union is an international network of professional and non-professional volunteers who are committed to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of orchid species and their habitats.

<http://www.orchidconservation.org/OSG/>

## The Cape Orchid Society Expo and Lecture Series

12 to 16 September 2007, Cape Town, South Africa  
"An Orchid Safari - A window on conservation of African orchids"

Convened by Michael Tibbs, President of the Cape Orchid Society and the SA Orchid Council, this will be the biggest orchid convention ever to be held on African soil. This four-day Expo will feature not only spectacular displays of orchids and exotic plants but will also host a three and a half day lecture series, set to attract both local and international delegates.

<http://www.capeorchidsociety.co.za/>

## Two Winners Whose Names Begin With 'R'

This story begins more than 10 years ago when I brought my blooming *Rossioglossum grande* to an orchid society meeting. Another member had a plant in bloom also and so we did it, we pollinated one of my flowers and the rest is history. Sadly, my plant died shortly after producing a mature fruit but the thousands of seeds germinated and one of those tiny protocorms has become the blooming beauty I now am very proud to grow. I consider this a winner because of its smiling blooms that welcome me every morning at this time of year. *Rossioglossum grande* is known as the 'Clown' because of the clown-shaped floral crest. Formerly known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this orchid is native to Mexico (Chiapas), Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala where it may endure many months of drought and cool temperatures.

Growth when it begins is rapid with the inflorescence developing about the time the pseudobulb is mature. My relatively small plant with 5 cm wide flattened pseudobulbs topped with two dark green leathery leaves produces a spectacular display of five 16 cm wide long-lasting waxy flowers in winter. It is amazing that such a small plant can produce such a huge display of bloom and probably little wonder that fruiting can be costly and possibly even fatal when it happens. I grow my plant outdoors in high light and warmth during the summer when it is watered/misted daily except during cool spells. It is exposed to short days and cooler conditions in autumn when the plant is only misted. When frost threatens, the plant is brought indoors to a cool bright windowsill where it matures the pseudobulb and begins developing an inflorescence. Avoid overpotting and use a very open mix to have perfect drainage. Once the flowers have developed, keep the plant in bright but cool conditions as this will lengthen the blooming season. Resume fertilization only when a new growth and roots begin developing in summer.

*Rudolfiella picta* of Panama, Ecuador and Columbia was once considered to be a *Bifrenaria*. This is a unifoliate plant with long-petioled plicate leathery leaves placed atop squat round pseudobulbs. Leaves and inflorescence bracts have scattered purplish spots. The 50 cm long inflorescence arises from the base of an older pseudobulb. It ascends quickly to about half the final length when it bends to produce an arching cascade of up to 40 red brown and yellow fragrant flowers. The ruffled reddish brown lip is hinged and attached to the fused lateral sepals. I acquired this plant bare root but it established quickly in a mix of coco chips and sphagnum moss. It enjoys bright light, warm temperatures and abundant moisture year round.

The challenge is to ensure that the rapidly growing inflorescence does not get tangled in potting mix or roots as it will fail to extend properly. This orchid does not seem prone to pests.

*Rudolfiella picta* 'Tres Jolie' AM/AOS (81 points) was awarded at the Montréal Supplemental Judging Centre on December 16, 2006. There were 23 flowers on one inflorescence measuring 3.4 cm wide and 2.5 cm vertical spread. The lip measured 1.2 wide by 1.5 long. Have you got a winner in your collection?

- Marilyn Light, Ottawa Orchid Society



*Rossioglossum grande*



*Rudolfiella picta* 'Tres Jolie' AM/AOS

# COMING EVENTS

2007

**Feb 10-11:** The Southern Ontario Orchid Society at the Toronto Botanical Garden, Edwards Gardens. <http://www.soos.ca/>

**Feb 23-25:** Orchid Society of Alberta in the Grant MacEwan College, Millwoods Campus, 7319 - 29 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta. <http://www.orchidsalberta.com/>

**March 2-4:** Victoria Orchid Society Spring Orchid Show in the Students' Union Building, University of Victoria. "<http://victoriaorchidsociety.ca/>"

**March 10-11:** Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd., Burlington "<http://www.osrbg.ca/>"  
Show chair is Jane Johnstone, email [rjjohnstone2@sympatico.ca](mailto:rjjohnstone2@sympatico.ca)

**March 17 - 18:** London Orchid Society at the Western Fair Special Events Building, London, Ontario <http://los.lon.imag.net/>

**March 19-24:** Orchid International Orchid Conservation Congress San José, Costa Rica <http://www.jardinbotanicolankester.org/ing/>

**March 24-25:** Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Orchidexpo 2007  
College de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere St., Montreal  
<http://orchidophiles.qc.ca/>

**March 23-25:** The Manitoba Orchid Society is hosting the **COC Annual Meeting** in conjunction with the "Orchid Fascination" Annual Show and Sale. <http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca/default.htm>

**March 31 - April 1:** The Orchid Society of Nova Scotia at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, Halifax.  
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/>

**March 31 - April 1:** The Regina Orchid Society at the Core Ritchie Community Centre, 445 14th Avenue, Regina.  
Contact: [reginaorchidsociety@yahoo.ca](mailto:reginaorchidsociety@yahoo.ca) or [c.eisbrenner@yahoo.ca](mailto:c.eisbrenner@yahoo.ca)

**April 13-14:** Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society at the Country Club Center, Nanaimo, BC. "<http://members.shaw.ca/CVIOS/CVIOS/>"

**April 14-15:** Les Orchidophiles de Quebec  
<http://cf.geocities.com/orchidophilesqc/>

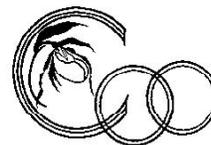
**April 28-29:** The Ottawa Orchid Society Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean, Ontario.  
<http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com>

**May 5-6:** The Vancouver Orchid Society 50th annual show at the Richmond Winter Club, 5540 Hollybridge Way, Richmond BC.  
Contact Maureen Renton [mrenton@shaw.ca](mailto:mrenton@shaw.ca) Or Bill Bischoff [wbischoff@shaw.ca](mailto:wbischoff@shaw.ca) "<http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/>"

**COC Web Site - <http://www.CanadianOrchidCongress.ca/>**

**This newsletter may be found there.**

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



news

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Editor: Jerry Bolce

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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