



news

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Ottawa Show and COC AGM, April 2008

Notice Board

COC Past President

Greetings,
At the last AGM on April 25, 2008 my duties of COC President were passed on to Jean Hollebhone.

Congratulations to all the newly elected members to the COC executive. I would like to thank the retiring executive, Margaret Blewett, Past President, Janette Richardson, Treasurer and Terry Zdan, Vice President for all the work they did in their term on the COC council. Janette dedicated twelve years handling the financial business as Treasurer and looked after the COC slide programs and COC medals. Thank you for a great job over many years.

Remember, the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) needs volunteers. It can be rewarding to work on a committee with members from across Canada to achieve a common goal. So, when the executive asks for volunteers, do your part for COC, share your knowledge and expertise with orchid growing members and make the Canadian Orchid Congress your society.

A big thank you to the executive members for all the help they gave me over the past couple of years.

Happy Blooming!
Faithé Prodanuk, COC Past President

Peter Poot

Peter retired from 30 years of community planning some 15 years ago. He has grown orchids for over 45 years and is a past president of SOOS, COC, the Mid American Orchid Congress, and the Eastern Orchid Congress. He is currently an accredited AOS judge, the editor of the SOOS Newsletter and the Chair of the Toronto Judging Centre of the AOS. Peter has been SOOS show chair for many years and has been involved in organising orchid congresses in Toronto that included the COC, AOS, MAOC and EOC.

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.

Jean Hollebhone

Jean Hollebhone is a 20 year member of the Ottawa Orchid Society, serving as secretary and show registrar. Currently she is COC rep and manages the monthly show table. She grows a number of orchids and likes Paphiopedilum species, Bulbophyllums and Jewel Orchids. Professionally, she worked for 29 years with Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in pesticide and biotechnology regulation, Plant health, and as Director of Research and Development for the animal and plant health and food safety programs. In retirement she continues work with the Science and Technology Secretariat which coordinates the work of 11 science-based government departments and agencies. In 2007-8 she returned to college, earning a florist certification, which she now plans to put into practical use. Jean and husband Bryan have three boys, two daughters-in-law, four grandchildren and a house full of old Canadian Clocks cared for by Bryan. As new COC President, Jean wants to expand communication between Societies and the COC and will work hard to improve/add programs which further the goals and objectives of the COC and relevancy to member societies. In doing so she asks for your support and involvement in on-going and new initiatives.

Margaret Hewings

Margaret has worked in the travel industry since 1972, initially using her two years of living in Europe as a basis for setting up and escorting educational groups, and eventually developing group travel for many niche markets. In 1982 she bought her own full service travel agency, concentrating on group travel.

It was in 1990 that she first visited an orchid nursery in Hawaii. She has since led many orchid tours to various parts of the world - in Canada to view wild orchids growing in BC, Manitoba, Ontario and Newfoundland; elsewhere to view wild orchids in Florida, Singapore, Malaysia, France, UK, Japan, and South America.

In 2002 she took on the position of the Conservation Rep. for the OSRGB.

Margaret now works from home and plans to continue to work with group travel, including showing how orchids grow in their native environment and why conservation is so important.

From the New President

Another year, and a new and continuing slate of officers will now continue to move COC business forward. To be effective on your behalf we need your ideas, thoughts and thoughts so please feel free to write or call me at any time.

I would like to begin by thanking each of the retiring executive officers for their dedicated work on behalf of the COC societies. Without the work done on your behalf, the Congress would be less effective. In particular, I want to thank Faithe Prodanuk for her able guidance over the past two years as COC President. Just what a formidable job I am inheriting became clear as she cheerfully dumped a foot high stack of papers before me and said, " This is just a part of the work of the last two years, and it's all yours now, Jean." Indeed it will be a big job and I hope I can fill her shoes appropriately. Thank you Faithe for all your hard work on behalf of the COC.

We could only convince Robin Mc Laughlin to serve one year as secretary. Thank you Robin for your work and your help in producing the AGM minutes which will be published on the web shortly.

Another very big thanks goes to Janette Robinson, retiring from Treasurer for the COC for eleven years and as secretary for a year before that. Janette has been not only our very able financial manager but also is historical memory for the COC. Thank you Janette, for keeping the financial records in pristine order, for managing the COC medal and slide show distribution, and the thousand and one other related duties which you have quietly managed which have kept the COC well and functioning. We wish her well and thank her for her service. I have asked Janette to keep her line open as I am certain I will need to call upon her memory and I thank you Janette for generously agreeing.

A big thanks to those continuing members of the executive: to Jerry Bolce as web master and newsletter editor, the communication king- pin that keeps us connected. The newsletters are interesting and informative. It is a tremendous amount of work and he needs your support for continued content. Thank you Jerry, for this important work. Thank you Lynne Cassidy for managing the insurance program so seamlessly. Marilyn Light thank you for your continuing work on Conservation, CITES and importation. Mark Elliot, thank you for heading the education committee. And thank you to all the COC reps of the individual societies for being the liaison between your society and the COC.

In addition to the continuing members, your new executive includes Elsie Gerdes, First Vice president (North Okanagan Orchid Society), Peter Poot (SOOS) Second Vice president, Carol Gert, (Foothills Orchid Society) as Secretary and Margaret Hewings (OSRBG) as Treasurer. Valerie Tribes completes the team. I urge you to read their bios on the COC executive web page.

We have a full and interesting schedule of activities on our plate as you will see from the highlights of the AGM minutes in this newsletter. Over the summer, the executive will meet by e- mail to get our work started. We are looking at modernizing the slide program, expanding the use of the COC medal, and getting a firmer grip on membership, COC policies and procedures. We will continue to work with government agencies on CITES and import questions. We will be picking up new tasks and for this we will be sending out an autumn questionnaire to ask for your society's input and ideas on what is important to your society at a national level and what specifically would you like the COC to do to facilitate orchid activities in your region. As president, I hope to continue to emphasize COC relevancy to Canadian orchid societies' needs and interests, and I plan to speak publicly with a national voice on import and phytosanitary issues. For now, have a happy summer and great orchiding.

Jean Hollebone, COC President.

Vendors Listing

There is a complaint about the vendors list on the COC website not being up to date. There are vendors without a website, making it difficult to know if they are still in business. Please have a look at the vendors in your region and let me know if one should be removed or maybe I missed one that should be added. The vendors are listed to make it easier for you to find that special orchid whether on a visit or having it shipped.

<http://www.CanadianOrchidCongress.ca/vendors.html>
- Jerry Bolce, Webmaster

Report on the Ottawa Show and Symposium and the 21st annual COC meeting in Ottawa, April 25-27, 2008

The last weekend in April was a very busy one for the Ottawa Orchid Society and friends. On Friday evening the Nepean Sportsplex was humming as exhibitors set up displays, and the art gallery, as the fragrance and corsage competitions were judged and a reception was held for out of town visitors and COC delegates.

Saturday morning came all too early with breakfast at 7a.m. and judging starting at 8 a.m. and continuing with AOS judging in the afternoon. Best specimen plant and best plant in Show was *L. purpurata* var *semi alba* 'Caixinhe' x 'Sonja Fonda' shown by the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association. One award of quality and cultural excellence was awarded to Marsh Hollow orchids and six awards of excellence were given, two to Marsh Hollow Orchids owned by Mario and Connie Ferrusi for Masd. Malcom Adams 'Purple Haze' and Masd. Malcolm Adams 'Violicious', two to Piping Rock Orchids owned by Glen Decker and one to Zephyrus Orchids and to Patricia Caris from Quebec City. A certificate of cultural excellence went to Wing Che Lee of Mississauga for a magnificent specimen of *Sophranitis* (formerly *Laelia*) *purpurata* 'Wing Che Lee', CCE/AOS (92 pts). The COC medal was won by Joyce Medcalf for her wonderful display of pleurothallids and the COC President's Trophy went to a stunning *Gongora unicolor* exhibited

by Le Jardin Botanique de Montreal. For a full listing of awards by category and class, please visit the Ottawa website at www.ottawaorchidsociety.com.

COC seminars began Saturday afternoon and continued on Sunday with eight excellent speakers. We learned about orchids in China(Marilyn Light), orchid culture and care, (Julie Mertens), Bulbophyllums (Bill Thoms) and beautiful South African Disas (John Doherty). Saturday night's awards banquet featured a funny and thought provoking talk by Doug Kennedy on the peculiar traits of those who grow orchids and those who support those who grow them. The auction that followed raised \$2018 which will be split equally between the COC and the OOS.

Sunday began with a packed COC AGM and another round of superb seminars by Bill Thoms on orchid culture, recent trends in breeding paphiopedilums (Norito Hasagawa) and mini- Cattleyas (Howard Ginsberg) and the discovery and breeding of *Phragmipedium kovachii* by Glen Decker. All too soon it was 5 p.m. and take down time and in an amazingly short period all that remained were empty tables and aching feet.... till next year. The OOS would like to say at this time, sincere thanks to all our COC visitors and vendors for coming and to all the volunteers for their help in making this event a success.



Above: Pleurothallid display
Right: *Gongora unicolor*

Approximate Temperature Requirements of Paphiopedilum Species

With a few other cultural hints

This writing came into existence after I had read (one more time) the old Rule:

~~Paphiopedilums with plain green leaves grow cold,
Those with patterned leaves grow warm.~~

Wrong!

Fortunately, there are many books written by many dedicated experts about the lady-slippers in general and the *Paphiopedilums* in particular. I am most grateful to all these authors and glad that I could read their instructions and arguments. I must point out that for the final decision, I am leaning on Catherine Cash's writings and most heavily on Phillip Cribb's second edition of "The Genus *Paphiopedilum*"; therefore you may not see all the earlier names listed.

As we know, the equator is an imaginary line around the widest part of the globe, right where the sun shines the strongest and temperatures are the hottest. The farther North and South we travel, the cooler our temperatures become. If we only had to consider the degrees of latitude, it would be very simple to deduce temperatures at any given point on earth. But we also have to remember that the higher an elevation rises above sea level, the cooler it becomes. We have seen pictures of high mountains in the tropics with eternal snow on their summits, like Mauna Kea in Hawaii and Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. There are many other very high mountains in the tropics. And that is why it is not so simple to come up with a temperature for any given spot.

In addition, there is the weather to consider: the warm, wet monsoons, cool winters and dry seasons. There are also very shady river valleys and hot sunny rock faces. It makes a difference whether plants grow in full sun or on slopes or cliffs that are facing away from the sun. The biggest difference seems to be between continental climate and oceanic climate. You can see this clearly on distribution maps in several books that are so helpful to us – the amateurs.

Some of you may have seen the lovely chart: *Supplementing Calicolous Paphiopedilum Species*, prepared by the Wellensteins, in www.ladyslippers.com. The listing here is not as precise but it is an attempt to help a few growers who, like me, have trusted that old rule (above) and killed many precious plants. To make things easier, I am listing the plants in alphabetical order, for the sections and again for

the species.

Please remember that new species of plants, including slipper orchids, are regularly discovered and described. Taxonomists are also constantly adjusting described species' status from realizing that a new species may be closely related to an earlier described species and so they give the new arrival varietal status. Sometimes, species which grow over a large distribution area and have been found by several different plant hunters have been described under several different names and our taxonomists must decide which name has preference by being the first one published – and declaring the other names to be synonyms. If you own a plant, whose name does not appear on the following list, please try to look the name up in the pertinent literature, on the web and best of all: On the Kew List of Monocots.

As mentioned earlier, the most important factor affecting temperature tolerance is whether any species originate in continental areas with somewhat harsher climates which can present seasonally cooler temperatures or if they come from oceanic (coastal and island) areas with a gentler and generally warmer climate. Leaf colour is irrelevant.

Most, if not all of the *Paphiopedilum* species grow intermediate, which means it is seldom below 15°C/55°F and no higher than 26°C/80°F. For short periods, plants may tolerate 36°C/100°F with good air circulation. A drop in night temperature is always advisable. During cooler temperatures, please ensure dry potting media. This also applies to hybrid *Paphiopedilums*.

Now to the species, grouped into sections, all in alphabetical order:

Section *Barbata*

This section is the largest; its vast area of distribution is mostly oceanic from SE China through all of Malaysia, Borneo, New Guinea and other South Pacific islands. The plants have mottled foliage and need intermediate to warm temperatures, even moisture and have no dormant period.

acmodontom

appletonianum

argus can take cool winter

barbatum drier in winter

bougainvilleanum

bullenianum

callosum

cillolare

dayanum

fowliei
hennesianum
hookerianum and variety *volonteanum*
javanicum and variety *virens*
lawrenceanum
mastersianum
papuanum
purpuratum can take cool winter
sangii
schoseri
sukhakulii
superbiens and variety *curtisii*
tonsum
urbanianum
venustum "from the wettest place on Earth..."
violascens
wardii
wentworthianum

Section Brachypetalum

These are the warm-growing little "White" ones from coastal and oceanic areas spreading from SE China through Burma, Thailand and Malaysia. They all like extra lime in the potting mix and have patterned leaves.

bellatulum
concolor
godefroyae
niveum

Section Cochlopetalum

These have plain green, slightly tessellated leaves and come from Sumatra and Java – warm!

glaucophyllum and varieties like some lime
liemianum
primulinum and variety *purpurascens*
victoria-marieae prefers no lime at all
victoria-reginae likes some lime

Section Coryopedilum

Plants come from the Philippines, Borneo, New Guinea – all areas of high temperatures and high rainfall; they all have plain green leaves.

adductum
gigantifolium
glanduliferum
kolopakingii
philippinense likes some lime
randsii
rothschildianum has a cooler, drier winter rest
sanderianum grows in the shade
stonei likes some lime
supardii

wilhelminae likes some lime

Section Paphiopedilum

These plants come from a large area spreading out between S China through Vietnam, Thailand and India; they have plain green leaves and several have cool, dry winters

barbigerum
charlesworthii can be very cool in the winter
druryi from S. India grows in full, hot sun
exul
fairrieianum likes some lime and cooler winters
gratrixianum no lime
helenae
henryanum
hirsutissimum and variety *esquirolei* like some lime and have a very cool winter rest
insigne and varieties like some lime and cooler winters
spicerianum likes some lime and cooler winters
tigrinum
villosum and varieties can grow as epiphytes with cooler winters

Section Pardalopetalum

This section has fewer plants but they are spread out over an area from SE China through Burma, Thailand and Malaysia to Borneo and the Philippines. They have plain green leaves, experience large temperature fluctuations; they often grow at high altitudes and are subject to the local monsoons.

dianthum likes some lime
haynaldianum can have somewhat cool winters
lowii is widely spread as epiphyte or lithophyte (quick drainage!) with cooler, drier winter
parishii needs a cool, dry winter rest, does well in hanging basket

Section Parvisepalum

This group comes from S China and N Vietnam and except for *Paph. emersonii*, they have strongly patterned leaves; all grow in a more continental climate.

armeniicum likes some lime, warm temperature but a dry winter
delenatii needs acidic potting mix, grows warm – tropical
emersonii needs lime and in nature can be subject to frost.
malipoense and variety *jackii* need some lime, have dry cooler winter and wet warm summer
micranthum needs some lime.

- Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander

Highlights from the 21st Annual meeting of the Canadian Orchid Congress Ottawa, Ontario April 27, 2008

The 21st meeting of the Canadian Orchid Congress chaired by President Faithe Prodanuk was held in the Nepean Sportsplex, Ottawa, attended by fifteen orchidists representing BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec orchid societies. The minutes of the 20th meeting held in Winnipeg Manitoba in March 2007 were adopted and business arising from the minutes included information that the insurance program was working well, and that sending of the newsletter by email had been well received. It was agreed to update the venter information on the web site annually. A request was made to all societies to remind them to a) provide a short write-up and picture of how they used the COC medal for each year, b) to provide short monthly or bimonthly updates to the newsletter editor on important activities or events in their societies which would be of interest to other COC members, and c) to ensure distribution of the COC newsletter to the society membership.

A new membership liaison position was approved with responsibility to keep the names of society executive positions and addresses current in the COC address list. Valerie Tribes from the North Okanagan Orchid Society has agreed to take on this position for the COC.

Reports from the President, Treasurer, Conservation chair, editor and others were presented and discussed. The issue of proceeds from the COC auction was discussed and it was clarified that earlier minutes had indicated that the proceeds were to be split on the basis of gross funds received, as auction items were donated. It was agreed there was no need to change this decision at this time.

Other highlights: Several committees were struck to advance COC business:

- 1) It was agreed that the new First Vice President, Elsie Gerdes, of the North Okanagan Orchid Society would review COC AGM minutes to compile a short document outlining policy decisions that have been taken over previous years. Collating these decisions in one place will make referencing and decision making much easier.
- 2) Peter Poot as Second Vice Chair agreed to take on responsibility for slide shows. He agreed to strike a small committee to review new slide programs (possibly three are in preparation) and to determine whether current programs require updating and refreshing.
- 3) COC medals are currently available annually to any society in good standing for use at their annual show.

However, some societies may not have an annual show but still would like to award a medal. Peter Poot agreed to chair a committee to review how the current use of COC medals could be expanded and to make recommendations to resolve the issue within six months.

- 4) It was agreed that the newsletter would begin to accept commercial advertisements. Jerry Bolce agreed to establish a small committee to develop how this could be achieved and the conditions under which advertisements would be accepted. Jerry also indicated that he was working with an individual to update the COC logo to make it scalable and more professional looking.

Ongoing business: The Western speakers tour was reported as a success. Funding for this tour was on a one time basis and there is a need to review the criteria for funding three or more societies getting together to sponsor speakers. This will be looked at by the new executive as quickly as possible. Marilyn Light and Jean Hollebhone will continue to follow CITES and phytosanitary issues for the COC and to work with the respective agencies involved. Jean reported that CFIA has agreed to develop a new document to cover importation of orchids from Europe and Asia to Canada. Update of the document providing guidance on hosting a COC meeting will be updated from comments received after the AGM and circulated for approval to Societies.

The new slate of officers was presented and approved.

A motion was made to thank Janette Richardson for her dedication and hard work as treasurer and secretary for over the last twelve years for the COC. This was supported unanimously with much applause. A presentation plaque and small gift of thanks are being sent to Janette on behalf of the COC. Faithe Prodanuk was thanked for her work as president of the COC over the last two years.

In closing, the Ottawa Orchid Society was thanked for hosting the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 just in time to hear the invited seminar speakers. The full minutes of the meeting will be published as an annex to the newsletter when available and will take precedence over this summary.

Jean Hollebhone

Some Photos from the Ottawa Show





COMING EVENTS

2008

Sunday Aug 3: SOOS Summerfest at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Glen Decker of PipingRock Orchids, PipingRock@aol.com Has CITES now and will be bringing plants. Erich Michel of Hoosier Orchids, eemichel7@msn.com Topic: 'The Orchid Species of Madagascar' (with some of Fred Hillerman's slides). He will be bringing plants. All Orchidists Welcome "<http://www.soos.ca/>">

Sept 27-28: The Central Ontario Orchid Society, Cambridge Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge "<http://www.coos.ca/>"

Sept 26-29: Western Australian Orchid Spectacular and Conference "Living with Orchids"
"<http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/WAOS.html>"

Oct 4-5: The Foothills Orchid Society, Triwood Community Association Hall, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW, Calgary, AB
"<http://members.shaw.ca/foohillsorchidsociety/>"

October 25-26: Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Plant Sale, will be held at the Langley Civic Centre, 20699 - 42nd Ave., Langley, B.C.
"<http://www.orchidbc.ca/>"

Oct 25-26: Eastern Canada Orchid Society at the Days Inn Hotel, 1005 rue Guy, in Downtown Montreal. Phone 450-467-4795



Canadian Orchid Congress Award for most unique or unusual orchid
Disa uniflora, Owner Carole Gert, Foothills Orchid Society
Carole is the new secretary for the COC

Officers of the Canadian Orchid Congress

President	Jean Hollebone 613-226-2395 jhollebne@sympatico.ca
Past President	Faithe Prodanuk 250-542-0248 faithep@shaw.ca
VicePresident	Elsie Gerdes 250-546-1939 elsieg1@telus.net
VicePresident	Peter Poot 905-640-5643 sonja.poot@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Margaret Hewings 905-634-7084 mhewings@tpi.ca
Secretary	Carole Gert 403-949-4025 cgert@personainternet.com
Education	Mark Elliott 604-501-2136 melliott@mrl.ubc.ca
Conservation	Marilyn Light 819-776-2655 milight@igs.net
Insurance	Lynne Cassidy 604-536-8185 lynne.cassidy@telus.net
Editor	Jerry Bolce 519-885-1888 jerry@uwaterloo.ca
Membership	Valerie Tribes 250-503-1179 bcdserv@telus.net

COC News

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

**COC Web Site - <http://www.CanadianOrchidCongress.ca/>
This newsletter may be found there.
Please send in your show information: date, location, contact, etc.**