

news

Volume 22.3 - May 2010

The last two months have been very busy with many shows- Montreal, Quebec, Toronto Artistic, and finally Ottawa last weekend. It has been a great time to see old friends, to ooh and aah over the magnificent orchid specimens and to happily partake of the exotic wares from vendors we don't see very often. Now with a sadly depleted pocket, there are no excuses to not get back to COC business!

The COC educational grant was posted, applications reviewed and granted. I must admit to being a little disappointed by the number of applications. With the feedback we got from most societies that they really supported this program, we did not in fact disburse all the funds that had been set aside. When societies are planning programs for next year, consider the travel grant as a way to stretch programming funds. However, if the reason for so few applications was because the timing of the grants or an aspect of the program does not work for your society, please write Gail Schwarz or myself so that the Board can modify the program to make it work optimally for societies.

The late September meeting of the COC is coming up very fast. Our past president Faith Prodanuk will be approaching societies for nominations. We have a large slate to fill. I will be moving on as I will have completed a maximum term, so we will be looking at a new president, new vice chairs and other positions. If you are interested in serving a national coordination role please get in touch with Faith.

I had feedback that the new import guidelines (for orchids coming from the western USA) that we published last month worked well. An individual coming back from the Santa Barbara Show had his paperwork in order and indicated no border issues. This is good. However, we still

have the challenge of the potential loss of the houseplant exemption (for orchids being brought back in personal luggage from some parts of the USA) and the need to clarify requirements for the Singapore WOC to deal with and this will be my focus with CFIA over the next two months.

The amendments to the Bylaws are not yet ready for circulation. That is another piece of ongoing work as we hope to present them to the COC AGM in September.

Finally, please start thinking of nominations for the COC award to honour those who have served nationally. Jerry Bolce has had a magnificent certificate developed with the design skills of Brighthouse Communications and we are excited to be able to award it to several deserving folks at the September COC meeting. Please review the criteria on the COC web site and please send your nominations to me up to August 15. No takers yet on the French language help required, again volunteers would be gratefully accepted.

A late June mailing of the COC meeting agenda, reports and issues for decision will be sent to COC presidents and COC reps. Over the summer, please discuss items with your Boards so that COC reps can come prepared to make decisions at the September COC meeting.

This is the last newsletter before summer so best wishes for a happy summer season and we will be back to you early in September with news and documentation for the joint COC meeting with the Central Ontario Orchid Society in Hespeler Cambridge, Ontario. Mark it on your calendar

Jean Hollebhone and the Board.

Notice Board

Orchid Pests and Diseases

A revised version of "Orchid Pests and Diseases" by Marilyn Light and Michael MacConaill in Powerpoint format on CD is now available. The COC library of slide and Power point programs is an excellent resource for your use. We could use more of you creative people to come forward with additional programming for our COC societies.

Thank you Marilyn and Michael.

Peter Poot.

Educational Travel Grant

This is the first year we have offered the Educational Travel Grant Program. Six societies applied for the grant and all were approved. The societies were the Windsor Orchid Society, the North Okanagan, Okanagan, and South Okanagan Societies applied as one society, the Fraser Valley Orchid Society, the Saskatchewan Orchid Society, the Orchid Society of Nova Scotia, and the PEI Orchid Society. The grants will be used to cover the travel costs of speakers or trips to educational events. The application for 2011 travel grants will be posted in the January 2011 newsletter. Societies intending to apply next year can start thinking now about speakers they want to bring in, or specific events they would like to attend. The policy is posted on the COC website and contains all the information societies will need to apply in January 2011.

Gail Schwarz, Education Chair, rschwarz@hfx.eastlink.ca

Native Orchid Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, June 12-15, 2010

For further information, please contact Ben Rostron Ben.Rostron@Ualberta.ca; Tel: 780-492-2178 (work) or 780-434-3839 (residence).

2009 NOC Wisconsin Conference Proceedings now available

The deadline for advance orders is June 1st, 2010. If you plan to attend the NOC meeting in Edmonton AB in June, you may pick up your pre-purchased 2009 NOC Proceedings at the registration table and avoid the cost of postage. The price for the 2009 NOC Wisconsin Conference Proceedings is \$15.95US (plus \$6/copy S&H) before June 1, and will be \$24.95US (plus \$6/copy S&H) after the deadline date of June 1st, 2010.

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.

On the Web

Hang onto that backbulb you were going to discard. Here is an interesting website that covers various methods of what to do to get that old bulb sprouting.

<http://www.backbulb.com>

The author, Richard Lindgerg, also has a blog for you to keep up on his adventures. <http://blog.backbulb.com/>

Definition: A blog (a contraction of the term "web log") is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.

An example of other blogs on the web is Mary Ann Berdak's orchid blog - 7 Ways to Guarantee Healthy Orchids. <http://www.orchidblog.com/>

Another is the slipper orchid blog <http://www.slipperorchidblog.com/>

For Mother's day there are some wonderful photos at Orchidaceous <http://1888orchids.blogspot.com/>

West Coast Orchid Enthusiasts show off at Orchidelirium <http://orchidelirium.blogspot.com/>

From Sweden and an art director is Orchid Karma <http://www.orchidkarma.com/>

Want to share your hobby, photos, thoughts with your friends or the world. Create a blog. Want to try your hand at creating your own blog. It is free at <https://www.blogger.com/start> and, of course, there are many other sites that offer blogging services. The clue to find anything today is "just google it".

Also have a look at The Orchid Source at <http://forum.theorchidsource.com/> It is a forum or discussion group. It has categories like "New to Orchids", "Orchid Diseases - Pests - Problems", "Advanced Orchid Species and Hybrid Discussion", and several photo galleries. You can learn how others have solved their orchid problems or add your voice to the discussion. Maybe meet people you already know!

Some growing tips for Phragmipediums

Having observed a few different *Phragmipedium* species *in situ* in Ecuador, we have developed the following approach to growing these plants. In our growing conditions, and with our watering habits, we find most, both species and hybrids, seem to prefer nearly constantly damp conditions. The exception is *Phrag. caudatum* and some of its hybrid offspring eg: Phrag. Grande, which like it less wet and sometimes even resent (the roots rot!) damp conditions. To accommodate this, we use a semi-hydroponic approach to potting them. This means saving assorted better quality plastic containers that are higher than wide.

These can be saved from the deli or bulk food store purchases, empty instant coffee containers (lid and label removed), etc. Be sure to clean thoroughly first. Two holes are drilled or cut about 2.5cm (1") above the base and about 2.5cm (1") apart. (Do NOT burn holes into plastic - poisonous gases are produced.) It is advisable to put the holes on the same side of the "pot" so that later, water drainage will be a bit more predictable!

There are two medium options that both have similar long term results for us. In both cases, fill the bottom of the container up to the holes with medium-sized expanded clay beads (such as hydro leca, available at hydroponic stores). The easier option is then to position your plant in the container and gently fill with more of the beads. This seems much more successful for us when the plant is nearly mature or bigger. Seedlings were less so.

Alternatively we have also used our regular potting mix for Paph's and Phrag's. In this method, first cover the initial layer of clay beads with a single layer of somewhat broken

up pieces of styrofoam beads. This is done to keep the organic top layer separate from the water logged layer below to retard it's breakdown as much as possible. Gently fill around the plant with the organic mix the same as in the previous method. I find plants establish faster in the organic mix but then it does break down after a period of time and needs replacement while the inorganic mix could in theory last for ever. The organic mix consists of mostly either, thoroughly rinsed with HOT water, coco husk pieces or medium sized bark. Perlite, charcoal, a bit of

quartz sand or ground small bits of clay pots (?) called 'turfus' (also purchased from a hydroponics store) are also included. The proportions are quite variable and are not critical at all in our experience. Incidentally, quartz sand is the kind often found on golf courses in sand traps! Approximate ratios might be:

Coco to Perlite to Charcoal to Turfus/Sand = 8 cups to 1 cup to ¼ cup to ¼ cup

Naturally, in both cases, repotting is needed when the plant outgrows it boundaries. Keep in

mind that to underpot seems to be more beneficial for more rapid growth. Also good water quality is a critical factor for Phrag's. Therefore be sure to thoroughly flush the medium with plain water at least monthly. Note that I have observed that high levels of salts in the medium seem to cause leaf tip burn. Assuming that whatever fertilizer you use has trace elements in its composition, fertilizing as per your usual frequency, strength and balance should suffice. - Pat Vuurman

Thanks to Patrick Vuurman of the Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Garden for providing this article.

Photo by Marilyn Light
Pat Vuurman holds a Phragmipedium hybrid potted using his method.



All you did not need to know about *Schlimia* - Planch. & Linden.

As the spring orchid show season draws to a close here in Southern Ontario, it is time to take stock of all the new plants that have joined our household as a result of many an impulse buy. One such plant is labelled *Schlimmia trifida* and was bought because it looked very much like a Stanhopea, the plant that is, it has no flowers as yet. We can never resist yet another Stanhopea. We bought it without any idea of what conditions it might require, other than that it came from a grower in Ecuador. The vendor's sales person also did not know what it might require and happily accepted our offer to let him know when we looked it up. Buying a plant without growing instructions is of course something we do not recommend. You might find that you cannot possibly provide what is required, and then what? But then, do as I say, not as I do, and who can resist going through all those intriguing packages from a foreign place.

Well here is everything you did not need to know about a plant you will probably never buy. The dealer did have a few more, and probably still more in Ecuador.

The genus *Schlimia* consists of four to eight medium sized usually epiphytic Stanhopea like species that grow in wet shady mountain forests under cool to intermediate conditions in Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela. The inflorescences are pendant as in Stanhopeas and the up to six flowers per inflorescence are medium in size. The flowers are distinguished by a sack like hood formed by the grown together lateral sepals. The genus was named after a Mr. Louis Schlim who was a cousin to M. Linden an orchid collector in Columbia between 1850 and 1851. The type species (the first one

described) is *Schlimia jasminodora* Planch. & Linden (smells like jasmine I guess) and was published in 1853 as *Schlimmia jasminodora*. As Mr. Schlim's name only had one 'm' not two as all good Germans would expect, H.G. Reichenbach, a famous Austrian botanist published a correction in 1865, making it *Schlimia* with one 'm'.

Schlimia belongs to the Stanhopeinae and requires similar conditions to many Stanhopeas—so far so good. Our plant ought to flower in the fall, but who knows it may not be big enough, or it may not be what the label says. Also, it is

spring and there is a new growth showing, so chances are good it will stay with us till then.

There have been two AOS awards to the genus, both Certificates of Botanical Merit (CBR). Essentially an award created to recognize orchids of botanical interest, but not necessarily horticulturally interesting. Oh well, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and all that.

Schlimia garayana (syn. *trifida*)
'Sharon' CBR-AOS, August 14, 1999

Schlimia jasminodora 'La Merced'
CBR-AOS, November 14, 1986

The Orchidwhiz Encyclopeda lists the following species some of which may be synonyms: *Schlimia alpina*, *condorana*, *garayana*, *jasminodora*, *jennyana*, *pandurata*, *stevensonii*, *trifida*.

So, if you still want to know more

try:
AQ+ for the award descriptions, Orchidwhiz for culture and pictures, Selbyana, Icones Plantarum Tropicarum, Native Columbian Orchids, Native Ecuadorian Orchids.
- Peter Poot



Joyce Medcalf wins the COC Trophy at the Ottawa Show, April 2010

The Ottawa Orchid Society has a COC Trophy Class for the Best Non-commercial exhibit (other than that of the society) of flowering orchid plants or cut flowers grown and exhibited by Ottawa society members. In 2010, the trophy was awarded to Joyce Medcalf for her exhibit of pleurothallids and other miniature species artfully displayed in a humidified case.



Joyce tells us that the orchids that she grows are mainly in the Pleurothallid alliance, such as *Acronia*, *Pleurothallis*, *Stelis*, *Lepanthes*, *Lepanthopsis*, and require cool to cool-intermediate temperatures with high humidity. The flowers of these plants would collapse in the normal very dry atmosphere of an orchid show venue. To solve this problem, she constructed a Wardian type case, approximately 76cm x 51cm x 76cm tall, in which she uses two single disc ultrasonic foggers. Her favourite plant, seen in the centre of the



picture, is *Acronia canaligera* (syn. *Pleurothallis*). It has, up to, approximately 40 small, 0.5 x 0.5 cm flowers that arise on the leaf surface, at the proximal end of the leaf. It comes from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Photos and captions:

Joyce Medcalf holds the COC Trophy beside her prize-winning exhibit. Photo – Michael MacConaill

Acronia canaligera appears in the close-up of the COC Trophy exhibit. Photo – Michael MacConaill

Diana Burritt

Diana Burritt left this world on March 21, 2010, after a long and successful life. She will be remembered and missed by a loving family, good friends, respectful judges and growers and most recently a group of adoring orchid judging students. Diana was the first Western Canadian Orchid Judge. She belonged to the Fraser Valley Orchid Society, the Vancouver Orchid Society and the Mount Baker Orchid Society and served as an accredited A.O.S. Judge.

Diana was a founding and life member of the Fraser Valley Orchid Society and a life member of the Vancouver Orchid Society, both of which benefitted from generous donations of plants, time and advice. With her daughter and companion, Marilyn, she travelled to and judged at many World Orchid Conferences and judged and gave lectures across Canada and in our own large North West Region.

Diana will be sadly missed by all of us, especially a group of students for which she gave up her retirement to help assure that Western Canada has a judging presence.

Written by Betty Berthiaume.



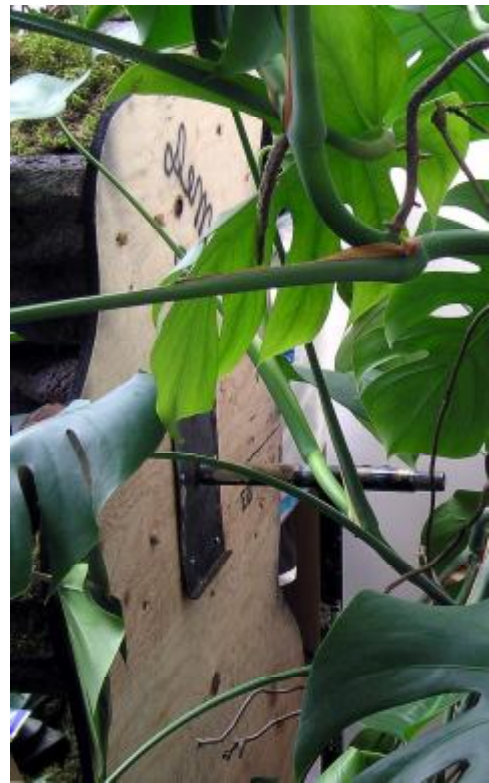
Deny McDonald designs a display and wins the COC Trophy at Orchidofolie, Québec

With some ½ in plywood, 2 in thick construction grade styrofoam, hot glue, solvent-free aerosol paint, branches, moss, some basic tools, and a lot of creative ability, Deny McDonald constructed a remarkable display for showing orchids. In the following paragraphs, he explains how he created a very natural-looking exhibit that garnered him and partner, Christiane Cormier, the coveted COC medal for the most artistic orchid exhibit at the 2010 Orchidofolie held in Québec City on April 17-18. The accompanying photographs show the exquisite detail he achieved, and how his 'false rocks' were positioned to simulate a natural, layered rocky outcrop within which he placed pots of blooming orchids. The additional photos show detail and the back of the exhibit where Deny attached a metal plate and a support to hold the display above the floor. Bravo to Deny for creating such a beautiful exhibit, and to Christiane and Deny for the beautiful display of orchids!



Deny McDonald – How to create a decorative orchid exhibit

My plan was to create an attractive display which would resemble natural rocks amongst which would be placed some blooming orchids. I first checked pot dimensions then sketched out a design (for each false rock) directly on a 4'x 8' styrofoam sheet. A handsaw was used to cut the foam. This process was repeated with additional styrofoam sheets to obtain additional shapes and the thickness required for the design. (In the photo, we can see three layers). Layers of cut styrofoam were then stuck together using hot glue. This glue provided good adhesion once all had cooled. With the layers firmly glued together, I then used various tools such as a knife, wire brush, rasp or coarse file to create the rocky surface effect on the tops, bottoms and sides but not the one flat, unaltered surface needed to attach the 'false rock' to the plywood support! I then used a stout knife to carve out places for pots in each false rock, making sure to leave enough styrofoam beneath for support.



Plywood serves as a back support for the 'rocks'. On the plywood, I arranged the styrofoam 'rocks' for effect, bearing in mind that my phalaenopsis orchids would have to have enough space between protruding 'rocks' for their foliage and flowers. On the plywood, I traced exactly

where I would situate each 'rock'. As well, I traced an irregular edge to the plywood which would harmonize with the 'rocks' and the overall design. This edge was cut with a jig saw. I then drilled holes in the plywood (where each 'rock' would be positioned), and where I would insert two wooden dowels to add additional support for the orchid pots. Likewise, I drilled holes in each false rock to receive the dowels but made certain that these would not obstruct orchid pot placement. Before gluing anything, I checked that all was to my satisfaction. I could always rework a piece or re-arrange pieces before final gluing.

Solvent-based spray paints will melt styrofoam so you must use water-based spray paint. It takes at least two or three colours; one light or dark shade as a base coat, and one or two other colours to create a granite rock effect. Apply one coat at a time and let dry before applying additional coats until the desired effect is achieved. The exposed plywood is similarly painted to blend with the rocks.

The final step is to arrange and glue branches and moss to achieve a natural look. All that remains is to add orchids (and some additional moss if desired) at the show.

Deny McDonald – Comment créer un décor pour les orchidées

Plywood (de 1/23 d'épaisseur), styrofoam isolant de construction (d'environ 23 d'épaisseur), un peu de colle chaude, de la peinture en aérosol, des branches, de la mousse et quelques outils et me voila prêt à créer un décor pour les orchidées.

Je commence par vérifier la grosseur des pots à cacher, je dessine ensuite la forme grosso modo directement sur le styrofoam, je le coupe avec un scie à main tout ce qu'il y a de plus ordinaire et je répète sur plusieurs couches de styrofoam. Je colle ensuite ces couches l'une par-dessus l'autre avec de la colle chaude, le styrofoam réagit à la chaleur mais ça ne dure pas longtemps et ça tient bien. Pour donner un aspect de roche au styrofoam, je prends différents outils, couteau, brosse à dent de fer, rape etc.... Ne pas oublier de garder un côté plat pour fixer au plywood. Je creuse un trou pour le pot à cacher en laissant assez de styrofoam pour le tenir.

Sur le plywood qui servira de fond, je place et je déplace les fausses roches jusqu'à ce que le tout me semble harmonieux. Je vérifie que les orchidées ont assez de place pour leur feuillage ainsi que pour leurs hampes puis je trace le contour des fausses roches à l'emplacement que j'ai



déterminé sur le plywood. Je trace une forme irrégulière sur le plywood qui s'harmonise avec les fausses roches et les orchidées qui vont dedans et je découpe le plywood à la scie sauteuse tout le long de cette ligne de contour. Je perce des trous bord en bord du plywood pour insérer des gougeons de bois, environ deux par fausses roches. Je perce deux trous du côté plat des fausses roches pour insérer les gougeons tout en ne nuisant pas au pot. Je vérifie que tout s'emboîte bien. À cette étape je peux encore changer les fausses roches de place ou les retravailler. Je fixe le tout avec de la colle.

La peinture en aérosol ne doit pas contenir de solvant qui réagit avec le styrofoam. Ça prend au moins deux à trois couleurs, une couleur pale ou foncée pour le fond et une ou deux autres couleurs imitation granit. Appliquer la peinture sur les fausses roches par couche successive jusqu'à l'effet désiré. Le support de fond en plywood peut-être fait de la même façon.

Je suis rendu à l'étape de figéage, je fixe des branches et colle de la mousse pour donner au tout un aspect naturel. Il ne me reste qu'à y mettre mes orchidées et voila je suis prêt pour l'exposition.

- Photos and captions (all photos by Marilyn Light)
- 1 – Deny McDonald à gagner le trophée COC à Québec Orchidofolie 2010. Deny McDonald wins the COC Trophy at the Québec Orchidofolie 2010.
 - 2 – Vue de côté. Side view of the exhibit.
 - 3 – Vue d'en arrière. Rear view of the exhibit.

The Essex County Orchid Society at the London Orchid Show

Our participating members were very successful. We had three entries in their show, two individual entries and one Artistic Design for our Society.

Barb Morden won a first place award for her individual entry (Oriental Theme) in the 6 to 10 orchid category and Mary Welacky and Juliette St. Pierre won a first place award for their joint individual entry (in the 1 to 5 orchid category). Our Society entry didn't place but we received many great comments on our Artistic Design.

Amongst the participating members they won over 25 ribbons for their grown and bloomed orchids entered in the show. It was very encouraging and we are looking forward to entering again next year.

Since a Judge couldn't make it for the Judging on the Saturday, Juliette St. Pierre, a Qualified Horticultural Flower Judge was asked to assist the Judges in the Judging process. This was a great honour for her and a very informative and great learning experience also. There's always more to learn in the world of flowers especially orchids.

Happy growing, Juliette St. Pierre, Secretary, ECOS



Essex County Orchid Society First Show

We had a great first orchid show on March 27th for our Club the Essex County Orchid Society. The COC Award for 'Best in Show' was won by Bob Morden for his Phias orchid.

Many of the visitors at our show couldn't believe their eyes on the feast of Orchids on display and were amazed when they learned that our Club was only seven months young!!!!

Photo: Bob is presented with his award by the President, his wife Barb Morden.



COC AGM 2010

The last society meetings before the summer break are coming soon in June. It means we need to do a little early planning for the COC Annual Meeting and associated show. The Central Ontario Orchid Society is the host this year at their show being held in Hespeler Cambridge, just off Hwy 401, also with easy access from two airports.

Please make your society aware of the Show and AGM before your break for the summer. Look for a mailing later this month once some details on speakers and vendors are determined. Early registration ends on August 15. You will also be hearing from the COC Executive as they get ready for the AGM.

Come and join the judges at a catered BBQ lunch of spareribs and chicken with all the fixings including wine. Our caterer shows up on-site with a large BBQ and goes to work putting everything together. There will be an awards presentation with snacks and drink followed by an auction. The COC requests that your society contribute a plant or other item to the auction.

Hopefully you will be joining us in September to see all the fall-blooming orchids.

As details become available they will be added to the COOS website. Have a look at <http://coos.ca>.

2010 COOS CENTRAL ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Host of the Canadian Orchid Congress
Annual Meeting & Symposium

Cambridge Hespeler Arena
640 Ellis Road Cambridge, ON

From 401, exit Townline Road. Go North and turn
on Ellis Road, the second street on the left.

Sat. Sept. 25th 11am to 5 pm
Sun. Sept. 26th 9 am to 5 pm

Admission: \$6.00

Supervised children 12 and under: Free

For more information:

Tel: 519.745.3815

website: www.coos.ca

COOS meetings are held in the basement hall of
St. Joseph's Church in Kitchener (148 Madison Ave)
on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm,
August through May. All guests are welcome.



The Orchids of Nepal

About the author



Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti is born in Paktarumak, Anghoshonchi, Nepal. He got Master degree in Botany from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Being a student of Botany, Mr. Raskoti has been focusing his research in plant biodiversity conservation, plant systematic, silviculture, traditional knowledge associated to biological resources and molecular technique. Botany, biodiversity conservation and climate change are his main interests. He has been working in different conservation related INGOs in Nepal.

He is the author of dozens of research papers and articles published in several scientific journals.



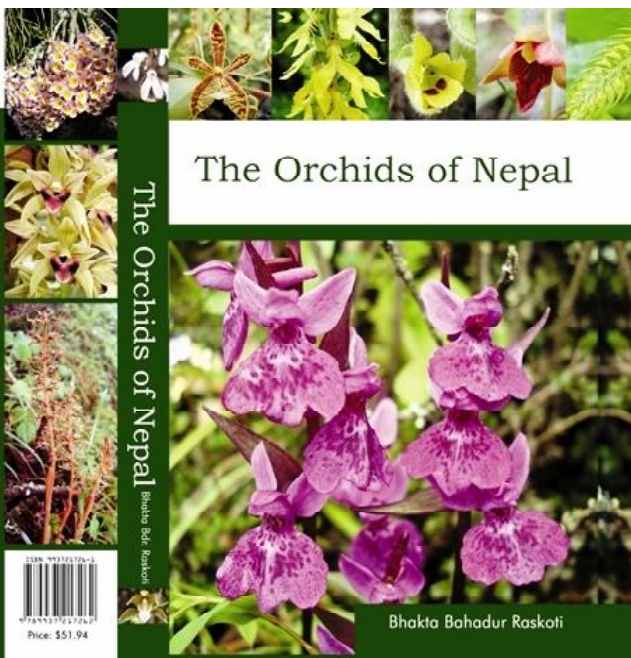
The Orchids of Nepal

Geographical, ecological as well as environmental variation in the country results Nepal as the "Natural Showroom of Biodiversity". The Himalayan country Nepal occupies only 0.1 percent total landmass of the earth and it contributes 2.7 percent of flowering plants in the world. Orchidaceae is the largest plant family of Nepal in terms of number of species. Published records show that 377 species of orchids belonging to 100 genera inhabit in the country. It alone accounts about 6 percent of the total flora of Nepal. There are various species with primitive characters and advance members having fantastic specialization with incredible range of colors, shapes, size and fragrance which are the subject of great fascination for researchers, scientists, orchid growers, and nature lovers.

There are several places within the country which can be declared as "orchid hot spots". Trekking in tropical, subtropical, temperate and alpine zones of Nepal with watchful eyes can enjoy the pristine glory of orchids. This particular gift of nature offers great opportunity to promote ecotourism in the country. Besides, orchids have their own ecological, medicinal, economic, scientific and cultural values.

This book is the outcomes of more than 10 years long individual research on the orchid flora of Nepal. It presents:

- Sound information of the wild orchids of Nepal.
- Description of 302 species and varieties of orchids of Nepal.
- Color photographs of each described species.
- Over 900 beautiful color photographs.
- Details of flowering period, habit, habitat and distribution.
- Information of conservation status of the species and their causes of threats.



Price: NRs. 4,010

The Orchids of Nepal



Nepal is considered as the "Paradise of the Orchids". It harbors diverse species of intriguing wild orchids. Orchidaceae is the largest plant family of Nepal in terms of number of species. It accounts about 6 percent of the total flora of Nepal.

This pioneer book presents 302 species and varieties of wild orchids of Nepal. With over 900 beautiful photographs, characteristics description, information of flowering period, habit and habitat, distribution, conservation status and cause of threats of each species are the main focuses of this book.

Sound information of wild orchids of Nepal and description of characters with photographs of each species is very useful for orchid researchers, scientists and orchid lovers. The focuses of flowering period, habit, habitat and altitudinal distribution gives idea for growing orchids in the natural habitats. Likewise, enlightenment of conservation status and cause of threats is important for the conservationist and can be a milestone to safeguard wild orchids.

The COC Winner at the 2010 Victoria OS Show

Patrick and Cathy VanAdrichem of Kingfisher Orchids created the winning display at the recent Victoria OS show. The show committee had set the criteria for the COC show medal winner to be awarded to a display of no more than 25 orchid plants.

Pat and Cathy had set up a huge tree trunk, consisting of large pieces of bark, installed vertically. This made-up tree trunk had mosses and ferns growing over the base and sides and a profusion of brightly coloured orchids spilling from every nook and cranny, pouring over the top and spreading on the ground. The genera were mostly Phalaenopsis and Doritaenopsis in mainly yellow to red shades, magnificently grown. Two large lamps were placed creatively over the top of the whole display.

There were several new AOS awards bestowed on the plants and the display also received the AOS show trophy.



COC Award at WOS Show

The WOS held its second Orchid Show in conjunction with the St. Clair College "Winter Blooms" event held on Saturday, March 27, 2010. The Canadian Orchid Congress Award was presented to Louise Holt for her beautifully grown *Phragmipedium caudatum* with two large flowers and two buds on two inflorescences. The WOS invited AOS Probationary Judge, Jean Ikeson, to judge the plants that were entered by the Society's members and to answer questions from the public who attended the event. On Sunday, March 28, Jean gave a presentation on the hybridizing characteristics of *Cattleya* species.

Pictured is Louise Holt (left) accepting the COC Award from Jean Ikeson.



The Orchids of Nepal

A wonderful book "The Orchids of Nepal" is recently released. This book is the outcome of ten years long research on the orchid flora of Nepal. It covers the Himalayan natural orchids of Nepal including tropical, subtropical, temperate, subalpine and alpine species. It has one thousand of beautiful color photographs, 256 color pages (6.5×8.5", 130 gm art paper, hard binding and jacket) with description of over 300 species including color photographs of every described species taken in the natural habitat. It also provides over all information of distribution, phenology, ecology and conservation status and their cause of threats. The cost of book is US\$51. This book is important for botanist, academic researchers, nature and orchid lovers and it is also important for the wonderful gift givers. Contact: Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti at bbraskoti@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

2010

Sunday Aug 1: SOOS Summerfest at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Fred Clarke, of Sunset Valley Orchids will be the guest speaker at this year's Summerfest. Fred will be making two presentations: "Today's Mini and Compact Cattleyas" and "New Hybrids with Catasetum, Cycnoches and Mormodes". As well, he will be bringing orchids for sale. If you pre-order, there is a 10% discount (July 19 preorder deadline). All Orchidists Welcome. "<http://www.soos.ca/>"

June 12-15: Native Orchid Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, For further information, please contact Ben Rostron Ben.Rostron@Ualberta.ca ; Tel: 780-492-2178 (work) or 780-434-3839 (residence).

Sept 25-26: The Central Ontario Orchid Society, Cambridge Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge. COOS will be hosting the COC Annual Meeting. "<http://www.coos.ca/>"

Oct 22-24: Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Plant Sale, will be held at the George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd Avenue, Langley, BC Contact: info@fraservalleyorchidsociety.com "<http://www.fraservalleyorchidsociety.com/>"



International Shows

Aug 25-29/2010: Sixth Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show. Early Bird registration closes 31st March 2010. More information on the ANOS Website: www.anos.org.au

Nov 14-23/2011: 20th WOC Singapore 2011 "Where New and Old World Orchids Meet". Start planning now. "<http://www.20woc.com.sg/site/>"

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

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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