



news

Volume 23.2 - March 2011

From the President

Staging a successful orchid show is a challenge at any time, but dealing with a bunch of self invited guests from across the country on top it all is a double challenge. Edmonton met that challenge with patience, grace, cold weather and western hospitality. Wherever I went I was met with smiles and assistance, and that included the college students and staff as well as the society members. On behalf of COC I thank the Alberta Orchid Society for hosting our AGM and for a wonderful orchidaceous weekend.

I am not used to three day shows, but it is an idea worth copying. It was a joy to see the show come together Thursday afternoon, and then to help judge it on Friday morning. AOS judging was made especially thrilling by the awarding of an FCC (First Class Certificate) to *Phragmipedium Fire Cascade*. In my thirty years of AOS judging I have only been present at four such awards in Canada. The FCC is the highest flower quality award of the American Orchid Society and requires that the flower score at least 90 points. Is it any wonder that I decided that the COC President's choice award should also go to this plant.

Edmonton has a wonderful institution in the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (OSPF). We visited their greenhouses on Saturday and enjoyed the many healthy orchid plants being preserved there. I was very happy to see the society honour Doug Bovey with a COC Medal for his long dedication to the objectives of that organisation. The OSPF is celebrating an anniversary this October with a show in the Muttart Conservatory.

Last but not least a few words about COC. I know that in the larger societies the usefulness of COC tends to be questioned. COC exists to help us help each other. The insurance program is probably the most significant example to most of us. Fortunately it now breaks even on the established fees. Meeting programs in slide and digital form are a useful tool to many small societies as well as some larger ones. We are upgrading the old ones and keep adding new ones. Together we can maintain on line culture sheets and listings of vendors and speakers across the country. Check out our web site, is there something you would like to see added? Do you have a program that might be useful to other societies? Share it. COC is an opportunity to interact with orchid hobbyists across our large country. It is also an opportunity to advertise yourself and your accomplishments to the rest of the country.

The AGM accepted the invitation of the Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington (Hamilton) Ontario to host the next COC Annual General Meeting in October of 2012. We are still looking for a Western venue for 2013. As the interval between meetings is stretching it may be useful to have informal Eastern and Western meetings of COC reps and members of the COC executive in between AGM's. This could serve to strengthen the connection between society reps and the executive. The question is where and when. A show that is attended by many of the region's societies would be best. I invite your suggestions.

Peter Poot.

Notice Board

CONFERENCES

The 4th International Orchid Conservation Congress "Orchids in a Changing World" is planned for May 29–June 4, 2011 in Hluboká, Czech Republic. Field trips to orchid-rich sites in the Czech Republic will be featured where participants will have the opportunity to both see orchid habitats and speak with conservation managers. This is an excellent opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives, and to see a wealth of orchids and other plants growing in interesting landscapes. For more information, to register, or to submit an abstract please visit www.iocc4.cz

The 4th Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids is scheduled for Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 2012. Details to follow. The Proceedings of the Third Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids should be published in early 2011.

The 20th World Orchid Conference will be held in Singapore, Nov. 13-20, 2011. A Conservation Symposium is planned for Nov. 15, 2011. For more information: <http://www.20woc.com.sg/site/>

The Native Orchid Conference Inc. will be holding their annual 2011 event at the Mt. Cuba Center, Delaware, on July 30 and 31. An interesting line up of speakers followed by two days of optional field trips (Aug. 1 & 2) are planned. Details may be found at <http://www.mtcubacenter.org/education/symposiums/2011-native-orchid-conference/>

COC Insurance

The insurance is all paid in full for 2011. We have insured 2278 COC members, 3 libraries and 17 Orchid shows across Canada. I wish to thank everyone for paying on time and sending me information so promptly. You have made my first year very easy, thank you.

Dianne Gillis, COC Insurance rep

Thank You

On behalf of Lynne Cassidy's sister, Ann Whittles and the family, we would like to thank everyone who so generously donated to the land conservation in Ecuador in Lynne's memory. Just over \$2000.00 has been sent.

Thank you. Dianne

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.

2011 COC TRAVEL GRANT

We will be accepting applications for the 2011 Travel Grant from Jan. 3/11 until March 16/11. The application form and instructions/conditions are on the COC website. We don't need a signature on the application form this year, only a name and contact information, so you can e-mail me your application.

Only five societies will receive the grant this year so get your applications in early. Preference will be given to societies who didn't receive the grant last year.

-Gail Schwarz

News from Montreal

Les Orchidophiles de Montreal have formed a committee to prepare an invitation to the World Orchid Conference Trust to hold the 2017 World Orchid Conference in Montreal. This is a very large undertaking that will require people and monetary support. We wish Les Orchidophiles well.

Program Library

We are always looking for new programming. If you have a meeting program that can be put to Powerpoint or any other reproduceable playable format for other Orchid clubs to use, please offer it up and we will add it to the COC Program library. Please give us permission to reproduce it for COC member societies.

We have received the following new material:

1. A three DVD set that chronicles the doings of a group of Canadian orchid enthusiasts on a tour of Ecuador. Each DVD, produced by J. Hrnčirik with sound and colour commentary, is circa 50 minutes and plays on windows media player. Excellent for those who want to taste the flavour of the country to either go there or to recall past travel.

2. Mario Ferrusi in collaboration with Ed Cott has donated his program "Mario's Orchids from A to Z in Powerpoint format. A collection of orchid pictures with cultural information.

These programs and others as listed on our web site are available to COC member societies at the cost of copying (approximately \$1 per disk) plus mailing from Peter Poot, email peterpoot@capricornview.com or phone 905-640-5643. Please leave time as I am a busy guy.

The Orchid Society of Alberta Orchid Fair

This was the society's 34th Annual orchid show and it included a large sales area with many excellent vendors. The show was held in a large College gymnasium. It is reputed to be the largest AOS judged show in Western Canada featuring over 600 plant entries in some 30 exhibits. The show employed professional help for its publicity and was well attended in spite of the at times inclement weather.

The AOS show trophy for best display was awarded to a display by Dr. Paul Paludet with an average score of 82 points. The COC medal trophy went to the Alberta Orchid Society display for Most Diverse Display of orchid flowers and orchid plants. The AOS judges awarded five plants shown here.



Phragmipedium lindleyanum, HCC-AOS 77 points



Phragmipedium Fire Cascade, FCC-AOS 90 points

Chuck Taylor (Fatoldbaldguy Orchids), won an FCC for Phrag Fire Cascade. This is the first time a FCC has been awarded in Alberta and one of very few from Canada - congratulations.



Phragmipedium Eric Young, CCM-AOS 87 points

Photos by Peter Poot



Paphiopedilum villosum, CCM-AOS 85 points



Ornithocephalus manabina, CCM-AOS 85 points

Paul Paludet wins Best Display - AOS Show trophy



J&G Heaps Education Display



OSA display wins COC medal

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show

Out East on the weekend before Valentine's Day this is the first Orchid Show of the year. SOOS stages this show annually at the Toronto Botanical Garden at Edwards Gardens in the City of Toronto. With good weather, excellent publicity and a large population base the show was well attended.

This year the show featured over 800 orchid plants in 37 displays entered by hobbyists, commercial vendors, and Orchid societies from Ontario, Quebec, and Northern New York. The three most spectacular displays were awarded American Orchid Society Silver medal certificates which requires that they score between 85 and 89 points on the AOS Show trophy point scale. In addition Mario Ferrusi took the AOS Show Trophy and Les Orchidophiles de Montreal took the COC Medal for the Most Innovative and Artistic exhibit of the show. The other Silver Medal certificate went to Terry Kennedy of Our Tropics.

Les Orchidophiles de Montreal displays are always very innovative, dramatic, and well executed with wonderful specimen plants and sometimes novel accoutrements. So much so that some of our more conservative judges have difficulty fitting them into their idea of a good orchid display.

The Ferrusi display was a beautiful natural style arrangement of wonderful well grown quality specimen plants.

The Kennedy display featured many well grown unusual species and quality hybrids in a superbly arranged well articulated natural style setting.

There were many other good displays as well as some not so good ones. It takes good plants as well as good culture, good arrangement and hard work to produce a ribbon worthy orchid display.

Five plants got AOS awards:

Sopholaeliocattleya California Flame 'Cloud's Tiger Bomb' HCC-AOS 78 points, Cloud's Orchids.

Paphiopedilum venustum 'Marie' AM-AOS 81 points, Joe Madden.

Odontioda Pacific Ruby 'Conni's Ruby' HCC-AOS 79 points, Mario & Conni Ferrusi.

Wilsonara (Odcdm. Solana x Oda. Janis Andrew) HCC 79 pts., Mario & Conni Ferrusi

Phalaenopsis wilsonii var blue x Timothy Christopher HCC 79 pts., Crystal Star Orchids

The objectives of the SOOS Show are to bring the orchid hobby to the attention of the public and to garner funding for orchid conservation and education. So far the show has brought us 15 new members through the efforts of the volunteers at our membership table. We hope that public attendance raised enough to continue conservation and

education support beyond our normal society operating budget. As with other societies escalating space rents and other operating costs are a problem. - Peter Poot



Mario Ferrusi of Marsh Hollow wins the AOS Show Trophy



Les Orchidophiles de Montreal took the COC Medal for the Most Innovative and Artistic exhibit



Photos by Peter Poot

A Silver Medal certificate went to Terry Kennedy of Our Tropics

Endangered

Endangered even before formally described: *Bulbophyllum kubahense* n.sp., a beautiful and assumedly narrowly endemic orchid from Borneo

Abstract *B. kubahense* J.J. Verm. & A. Lamb is described, a new species differing from *B. refractilingue* in having a longer rachis, longer lateral sepals and larger petals. This attractive species is known from a single locality within a national park in Sarawak, Malaysia. Nevertheless, wild-collected plants have turned up in nurseries in Singapore, causing concern about its continued existence in the wild. Paper found on COC website under conservation news.

AOS January Newsletter

Read the many articles in the Beginners Series - 12 excellent articles from the AOS archive. Find also the Beginner's Handbook on growing orchids in the home. On the Spotlight on Culture, visit Paphs, Masdevallias and Angraecoid orchids. Note that another of the truly great luminaries of the orchid world, Joyce Stewart (1936-2011), passed away on 7 January 2011 following a brief illness.

http://aos.informz.net/aos/archives/archive_1240194.html

Website

Care of Orchids: Growing orchids for beginners

Plenty of article and videos on orchid care, orchid fertilizers, growing under lights and much more.

<http://www.care-of-orchids.info/>

COC Posters for Your Show

If you wish to set up a COC display at your show, you can find links to the COC poster, culture sheets and brochure at:

<http://www.CanadianOrchidCongress.ca/cocawareness.html>

Feel free to download and print off whatever you need. Local print shops (like Staples) do a good job.



The Internet

Wouldn't it be great if all your membership had an email connection? Printing and mailing newsletters is costly and time consuming for the volunteer that needs to run to a printer and then stuff envelopes. Besides, orchids are colorful and it would be nice to see all those photos in color. Should those members who get their newsletter via email get a discount on their membership fee? Do you have the membership on a mailing list so it is possible to quickly inform everyone of changes or cancellations? Do you even have all the executive and show committee on the internet?

We have as a goal in the society to help our membership grow orchids. The days are past when a library of books and speakers are the primary sources of information. Today the internet is a vast repository of information that can be searched in seconds for the information one needs. You can watch repotting videos, find culture information or connect with the only other person on the planet with similar tastes.

For some the internet is a scary place and computer technology is overwhelming. How about a computer course for those members that are not currently on the internet. You could hear their concerns, help them with terminology, and give them directions on getting a computer and getting hooked up.

Another beginners course would be to assist the members in how to better use the internet. There could be presentations on actually finding and using the resources of the internet. Use Google to find that special help. Tour Youtube, Flickr, the Orchid Forum and innumerable other sites.

I noticed that the SOOS website has posted a video taken during their recent show. The tools today make it very easy to record a tutorial, social occasion, show, etc that can be shared on Youtube. Advertise your next show with a video.

Further on, the young people do not use the internet the same as us old fogies (speaking for myself, of course). Are we missing them because we don't know how to communicate with them? How about looking into Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and all the other social media. - Jerry Bolce

Please Forward

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your society membership.

COC Digital Slideshows

The programs below have been added through generous donation. They are in Powerpoint and require a computer and digital projector. For details look on the COC website.

Tour of Ecuador: A three DVD set that chronicles the doings of a group of Canadian orchid enthusiasts on a tour of Ecuador. Each DVD, produced by J. Hrnčirik with sound and colour commentary, is circa 50 minutes and plays on Windows media player. Excellent for those who want to taste the flavour of the country to either go there or to recall past travel.

Mario's Orchids from A to Z - Mario Ferrusi in collaboration with Ed Cott has donated his program - collection of orchid pictures with cultural information.

Hardy Orchids by Bill & Carla Bishoff and Lorne Heshka. One disk contains an 85 slide PowerPoint presentation of orchids hardy in Canada plus a Word document narrative describing the pictures and the cultural conditions required.

The 2008, 19th World Orchid Conference in Miami, Florida by from Robert Lucas, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. There are 65 Powerpoint format pictures of the major exhibits and trophy winners, and an accompanying text. An excellent program to relive the 2008 WOC for those who were there and a teaser for those who were not to start thinking about Singapore in 2011. In any case this presentation provides an excellent overview of what a major orchid exhibition can offer, including wonderful paphs, phalaenopsis, cattleyas, vandas etc.

Phalaenopsis culture under lights from Robert Lucas, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This Powerpoint program describes Robert's phalaenopsis culture under lights. It covers all of the essentials in text and pictures. It goes into light intensity, watering, growing media, fertilizing, and temperature. In addition there are sections on deflasking seedlings, hybridizing, and seed sowing. Thank you Robert for sharing your expertise.

Dendrobium speciosum, its varieties and influence on its hybrids by Gail Schwartz. This program explores the different varieties of this Australian Dendrobium including growth habits and cultural differences. It was first presented to the Toronto Judging Centre.

The Stanhopeas by Inge and Peter Poot. A survey of Stanhopea species including culture requirements and origins. The program deals with species identification and presents some hybrids as well as some intergeneric hybrids. Includes a section on cultivation.

Orchids of the Ottawa Region by Henry Steger. A survey of species native to the Ottawa region with habitat as well as closeup photography. An excellent introduction to many of our native orchids.

COMING EVENTS

2011

NOTE: The RBG show has been moved to the Fall.

March 19-20: London Orchid Society at Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School, 1065 Sunningdale Road East, London.

"<http://los.lon.imag.net/>"

March 25-27: The Manitoba Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. For more information, email:

secondvp@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

"<http://manitobaorchidsociety.ca/index.php>"

April 9-10: Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Orchidexpo, College de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere St., Montreal, Quebec. Information: Andre Poliquin mor-pol@sympatico.ca

"<http://orchidophiles.qc.ca/>"

April 9-10: The Regina Orchid Society Show and Sale will be held in beautiful Wascana Park, at Wascana Place, 2900 Wascana Drive, Regina.

Contact Bryan Hebb, Show Chair, bhebb@sasktel.net (306)586-4789

April 15-17: Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society at the Country Club Center, Nanaimo, BC. Contact: Sue Christison,

email orchidlady@telus.net <http://www.cvios.com/>

April 16-17: Les Orchidophiles de Quebec at the Pavillon Environtron, 2480 Blvd. Hochelaga, Sainte Foy.

"<http://www.orchidophilesdequebec.ca/>"

April 16-17: The Annual Toronto Artistic Orchid

Association Show, C I C S (Centre for Information and Community Service), 2330 Midland Avenue, Toronto, (N. W. of HWY 401 /Midland)

Email: Louisa Fung louisafung@rogers.com

"<http://www.taoa.ca/>"

April 23-24: The Ottawa Orchid Society Show at the

Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean, Ontario.

Contact Dave Cooper (613-256-2853; orchidae@storm.ca) "<http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com>"

"<http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com>"

June 3-4: Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival

"<http://www.orchidfest.ca/>"

Sunday Aug 7: SOOS Summerfest at the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

All Orchidists Welcome. "<http://www.soos.ca/>"

International Shows

Nov 13-20/2011: 20th WOC Singapore 2011

"Where New and Old World Orchids Meet".

Start planning now. "<http://www.20woc.com.sg/site/>"

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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

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