



NEWS

Volume 25.2 – March 2013



COC Trophy, Orchid Society of Alberta, 2013.
Most diverse display of flowers or plants. Janet and
Gordon Heaps

2013 COC Travel Grant

We will be accepting applications for the 2013 Travel Grant from Jan. 4/13 until March 15/13. The application form and instructions/conditions are on the COC website. We don't need a signature on the application form, 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

An invitation from the London Orchid Society

Once again this year, the London Orchid Society is having a special guest speaker at their May 19 meeting. And once again, they invite members of their fellow Canadian orchid societies to join them at no charge. Details of their May speaker, Glen Decker of Piping Rock orchids, are in their newsletter and web-site..

Please, pass the word and their invitation. You can direct members to their web-site <http://los.lon.imag.net/> or their email address (murage@rogers.com) if they wish further information including driving directions.

As well, below is a link to their special May speaker's web-site.

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

To pre-order your orchids, please go to his web-site. You either order directly on his web-site indicating in the comment box London Orchid Society May 2013 meeting or send him an email indicating London Orchid Society May 2013 meeting pre order. Please note that his schedule is quite busy at times, so please order early and be patient for a reply. He will collect the money when you receive the orchids.

Joining Facebook

[Durham Region Orchid Society](#)

[South Okanagan Orchid Society](#)

[Manitoba Orchid Society](#)

[Essex County Orchid Society](#)

COC AGM

[For show information.](#)

The Manitoba Orchid Society
is pleased to host
The 2013 Annual Meeting
of the
Canadian Orchid Congress
in conjunction with
"A Symphony
of Orchids"
Annual Spring Orchid
Show and Sale
March 22, 23 & 24, 2013
Assiniboine Park Conservatory
15 Conservatory Drive
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Watch for more information at: www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca
2013 Show Chair - Lorne Heshka - lheshka@mjmts.net

President's Ramblings

Our 2013 Annual General Meeting is coming up fast. It will be hosted by the Manitoba Orchid Society in Winnipeg in conjunction with their annual show and sale at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory March 22, 23, and 24. Set up and Judging is on Friday, there is a banquet and auction Saturday night, and public sales and viewing are Saturday and Sunday. Auction items are requested and those that are donated in the name of the COC will be auctioned on behalf of COC. We will have our AGM on Sunday starting at noon local time at the offices of the Living Prairie Museum. This will allow us to attempt our first internet connected meeting. We hope to use "go to meeting" to allow those delegates who cannot attend physically to connect and have input. You will need a computer internet connection to participate. There will be further directions, but please let me know if you wish to participate in this fashion. Alternatively and to make sure we have a quorum, please send me your proxies on the agenda items. If your society plans to have a representative in person at the meeting please let me know that also as soon as possible.

At this time we have two invitations for our 2014 AGM. So we will need a discussion and decision in Winnipeg on which one to accept. One is from the Orchid Society of Minnesota to join them at the AOS and MAOC meetings that they are hosting April 30 to May 4, 2014 in Bloomington, Minnesota. The other is from the Southern Ontario Orchid Society to join them at their Orchidfest in Toronto August 9-10, 2014. I, of course am biased in favour of the Canadian location.

Julie St. Pierre is the Program Chair of the Essex County Orchid Society. She emailed me recently with the following suggestion that I think has a lot of merit: "It would be great if each Society could provide a list of speakers that they get during the year and/or a list of people or names of their members that would be willing to speak to nearby Societies. There is lots of knowledge out there that we need to capture". I think sharing program speakers and ideas would be very useful, especially within regions. Any suggestions as to how this might be best implemented? Looks like a good job for a new vice president. [*Also look on the COC website for the [current COC speaker list.](#)*]

The spring show season has started. I have seen good public attendance in Edmonton, Toronto and Burlington. There are people out there that are hungry

for orchids and orchid knowledge. It is up to us to engage them.

In Toronto we have been trying out a for us new show activity. We have long had a very popular Sunday morning time for photographers. This has become so popular that participating photographers complain about it being too crowded and not long enough. Two years ago and again this year a photography club approached us about opening the show to them exclusively for a set fee on Saturday night. They controlled the number of participants and collected the entry fee for us. This turned out to be beneficial to the photographers as well as the show. The show got a set fee for minimal supervision of an orderly photo session at a time that would normally not be worth opening to the general public anyway. A win-win for everyone. Now we need to work out how to better deal with our open overcrowded Sunday morning photographers session.

Hope to see many of you in Winnipeg later this month.

Peter Poot, Interim President

2012 Financial Results

The COC just completed another successful year and the results are as follows:

For the year ended December 31, 2011, the COC recorded a surplus of \$329. Revenues were up by less than 8% while the expenses were down by about 11%; these variations are the result of the Annual General Assembly. With the \$1,000 donation from the Orchid Society of Alberta, the COC made a grant to the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation of the same amount. One expenditure that may require special attention is the amount paid for legal fees which totalled more than \$826. The COC collected \$3,062 for insurance for the societies and the insurance premium was \$3,005; it appears that no fee increase is required for the 2014 year.

The report will be tabled at the next Annual General Assembly for approval.

André Couture, Treasurer

News from Orchid Journal

We have been very very blue recently. Blue as in BLUE phals. Our reach was 4,000 in a week when we posted this item regarding genetic engineering by Chiba University and their claims of producing a Blue phalaenopsis.



OJ has linked with the Hardy Orchid Society in the UK and societies in Australia who are hoping to create a similar success story for their Facebook page. Canadians are enjoying the flying duck orchids of Australia and being surprised by findings of terrestrial beauties in their own country.

Further postings regarding Bruce Peninsula photo albums of native orchids should help inspire more to go out and appreciate our natural wonders!



Ophrys bertolonii e *Araneus diadematus* - Parco del Conero - [European Orchid Fans](#)

Our facebook site now handles posters from just about every society in Canada as well as some U.S. shows including show results, awards and volunteer contributions. This year the SOOS Facebook team treated us to photos (as it happened) during ribbon judging and even a post-show scene of the hall.

Well done!!

Videos of the Victoria show were posted the same weekend giving Eastern Canada a treat. Lifetime memberships were highlighted for the Kingston Orchid Society as well as time lapse photos of a snow storm while our friends in the U.S. were trying to setup their show!

OJ is monitored by European Orchid magazine editors and is a totally hot item in Bolivia?! As well, OJ supports new Canadian Facebook initiatives by [Catasetinae Canada](#) on [Facebook](#).



Ctsm. Marsh Hollow 'Elvira'. Our first catasetum and our first flowering, a Male, Female and Perfect or Hermaphrodite flower. With such a variety of flowers on one spike, who couldn't be intrigued! Chuck Lefaive, [Catasetinae Canada](#)

Happy postings, Marlene

My musings on the Pacific NW Judging Center

So what exactly happens at an AOS judging Center?

Many years ago, the AOS Pacific NW Judging Center was established by some devoted aficionados. This was a real bonus for devoted orchid growers, as no AOS nominations for orchids could occur without the presence of accredited AOS judges. The presence of judges was largely confined to the various AOS accredited shows in the region and if your beautiful orchid flowered outside of those sanctioned times, you had no way of getting an opinion on the merits of your plant.

Now, every 2nd Saturday of the month, AOS judges, and student judges, assemble at the Sea Island Community Center to look at the orchids brought in by orchid growers. When I went on Saturday February 11(my first visit), there were about 28 orchids submitted for examination by the judges; ownership of the plants must not be known to the judges, as the latter must remain impartial. Everyone dropped off their orchids in a discreet manner. Several orchids were chosen for closer examination ('nomination'). When the judges took a closer look, they not only examined this particular plant, but they compared it to



Gastrochilus obliquus [Loisir et Jardin Garden and Leisure](#)

similar or identical plants that had received awards in the past. Thanks to the digital age, this information was at the fingertips of the judges.

After the initial discussion about the plant in question, the first decision that had to be made was whether the judges felt that this particular plants warranted a formal evaluation ('scored'). Once that decision had been made, each judge was given a rating sheet which covered flower form, color of flower, and other characteristics. Within each category there were further subdivisions, each with its own set of points. The maximum number of points tallied across the 3 categories was 100. A score of 75-79 points gets the HCC (Highly Commended Certificate), 80-89 points gets an AM (Award of Merit) , and 90 points plus gets an FCC (First Class Certificate).

As a visitor, you could wander between the judging teams that were examining potential nominations, or be invited to stay with one team. You may not express an opinion on an orchid unless invited to do so; you may certainly not identify an orchid as belonging to a certain individual, again for reasons of anonymity / impartiality. One team was examining an unusual catasetum, which was very special. It was very clear to me that the judges needed a great deal of knowledge to navigate the whole judging process, and that they needed a lot of experience with many, many plants to make any sound judgement. It was not surprising to learn that the whole process of becoming an accredited judge takes a minimum of 6 years, with 3-5 years as a student judge, and 3 years as a probationary judge. Becoming an AOS judge is a volunteer, non funded, training which takes a lot of dedication.

Thanks,

Margaret Prat, Student judge PNWJC

President, Vancouver Orchid Society



COC Trophy
RBG 2013,
Joyce Medcalf

COC Trophy
SOOS 2013,
SOOS Display
by Inge Poot,
AOS Silver
Certificate



In Memoriam: Dr. Wally Thomas

Dr. Wally Thomas passed away after a severe illness on January 15th. 2013. He had many friends and admirers all over the world. He was an internationally acclaimed breeder of odontoglossums and together with Dr. Carl Withner, was a founder of the Canadian Orchid Congress.

Dr. Wally Thomas signed in as a guest of the Vancouver Orchid Society ("VOS") in April, 1958 and became Vice President in 1960. He had been President of the VOS several times and was a co-chair of the 16th World Orchid Conference which was held in Vancouver in 1999. He was instrumental in bringing the WOC to Vancouver after 12 years of planning. Wally was also one of the four founding members of the Odontoglossum Alliance and it is still going strong. The first meeting was held in Vancouver and



is now an international organization. Wally had purchased two plants in 1958. They did not last very long but the interest in orchids had been sparked. It was not long till he built his first greenhouse, bringing up rocks for the foundation from the beach. Soon that was full and another greenhouse was built, then another and another and then the porch was enclosed to house some more.

Wally's favourite orchids were the Odontoglossums, in particular the red and white crispum. His kindness to all who knew him and his wealth of orchid knowledge will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to his wife Shirley and their family.

Compiled by Dianne Gillis, FVOS Newsletter

Also see:

[Remembering Dr. Wally Thomas](#)

The Windsor Orchid Society Honours Mario & Conni Ferrusi

At a meeting of the Windsor Orchid Society (WOS/SOW) held on Sunday, January 27, 2013, Mario and Conni Ferrusi were presented with an Honorary Membership in the WOS/SOW. In her address, Society Secretary, Renee Gignac, thanked the recipients for the support they have provided to the Society over many years – speaking to the group on frequent occasions, hosting weekend field trips to their greenhouses and always willing to assist the membership with cultural information. During the meeting Mario had made four presentations covering separate subject areas:

- A slide presentation of the awards granted by the Toronto Judging Centre in the month of January, 2013
- A presentation of the Special Awards granted by the AOS in 2012 including the Dugger Award that was received by Mario and Conni for their Odontoglossum Stroperry 'Twilight Treat' AM/AOS
- A presentation on recommended back-up systems for those members with greenhouses
- A Q&A session to address members' culture issues

Congratulations to Mario and Conni!!





LONDON ORCHID SOCIETY

36th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

ADVANCE TICKET: \$6
AT THE DOOR: \$8 GENERAL
\$6 SENIOR (60 & OVER)

MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
1065 SUNNINGDALE ROAD EAST, LONDON
JUST EAST OF ADELAIDE, LOTS OF FREE PARKING

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013
NOON TO 5PM: EVERYONE
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013
10AM TO 5PM: EVERYONE
8AM TO 10AM: ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY

WEBSITE: [HTTP://LOS.LON.IMAG.NET](http://LOS.LON.IMAG.NET)
PHONE: 519.645.7747

**Vancouver Orchid Society
2013 Show and Sale**

AOS Judged Show
Sales of popular & rare orchids
Local & international vendors

VanDusen Botanical Garden
Floral Hall
5251 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC

Saturday March 23rd
9:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday March 24th
10:00am to 4:00pm

Admission \$7.00
Seniors & Students \$6.00

Preview party/advance sale Friday, March 22nd 7pm to 9:30pm
(Order your tickets in advance)

The Vancouver Orchid Society is a non-profit organization
Visit www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca for a \$1 off coupon

ORCHIDEXPO 2013
EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE D'ORCHIDÉES DE MONTRÉAL

Samedi, 23 mars: 12h à 18h
Dimanche, 24 mars: 9h à 17h

CÉGEP de Maisonneuve
2700 Bourbonnière, MtL
Métro Pie IX

Entrée:
Adulte 10\$
Enfant moins de 12 ans 8\$
65 ans et plus 8\$

www.orchidophilesmontreal.ca

It's Showtime!

**Orchidofolie
2013**

Exposition annuelle
d'orchidées

Samedi le 6 avril de 12 à 18 heures
Dimanche le 7 avril de 9 à 17 heures

Pavillon Environnement
Université Laval
2480 boul. Hochelaga
(coin autoroute Robert Bourassa)
Stationnement gratuit

Admission
Générale: 10 \$
Étudiants: 5\$
12 ans et moins: gratuit

Les orchidophiles
de Québec
Tél: (418) 261-6886

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

Central Vancouver Island
Orchid Society
Annual Show & Sale
April 12th-14th, 2013
Nanaimo North Town Centre
(4750 Rutherford Road)

AOS judged show
Island, Mainland & International Vendors
Potting Demonstration with Q&A - Sunday at 1:00pm

Friday: 9:30am - 9:00pm
Saturday: 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

CVIOS is a non-profit society. Visit our website at www.cvios.com and reach us on Facebook

ORCHIDOPHILIA

OTTAWA ORCHID SOCIETY
32nd ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW
APRIL 20 & 21, 2013
ORCHID DISPLAYS * ART GALLERY * ORCHID VENDORS

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
TRIPODS WELCOME SUNDAY 9-11AM

General admission: \$10
Seniors (60+): \$8
Children (8-12): \$8

Nepean Sportsplex 1701 Woodroffe Avenue Ottawa, Ontario
www.ottawaorchidsociety.com

COMING EVENTS

2013

March 16-17: London Orchid Society at Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School, 1065 Sunningdale Road East, London.
"http://los.lon.imag.net/"

March 22-24: The Vancouver Orchid Society Annual Show at the Van Dusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St., Vancouver BC.
"http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/"

March 23-24: Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Orchidexpo College de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere St., Montreal
href="http://orchidophiles.qc.ca/"

March 22-24: The Manitoba Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. The COC will also be having its Annual Meeting. For more information, please email:
secondvp@manitobaorchidsociety.ca
"http://manitobaorchidsociety.ca/main_mos/index.php"

April 6-7: Les Orchidophiles de Quebec at the Pavillon Environtron, Université Laval, 2480 Blvd. Hochelaga, Sainte Foy.
"http://www.orchidophilesdequebec.ca/"

April 13-14: The Annual Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show, CICS (Centre for Information and Community Service), 2330 Midland Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, MIS 5G5, (N.W. Of HWY 401/Midland) For show information: info.taoa@yahoo.ca "http://www.taoa.ca/"

April 13-14: Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society at the Rutherford Mall which is now called Nanaimo North Town Centre, Nanaimo, BC. Contact: Sue Christison, 250-246-2447 or email orchidlady@telus.net
"http://www.cvios.com/"

April 20-21: The Ottawa Orchid Society Annual Show at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean, Ontario.
"http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com"

The Regina Orchid Society has cancelled its annual show and sale for this year.

May 24-26: The Foothills Orchid Society invites you to The Calgary Orchid Show and Sale at Triwood Community Center, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW, Calgary, AB "http://www.foothillsorchidsociety.com/"

May 31 - June 1: Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival
"http://www.orchidfest.ca/"

Sunday Aug 11: SOOS Summerfest at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, Lawrence Avenue East at Leslie Street. AOS judging starts at 10 am. You are welcome to sit in or bring plants for judging. There is a pot luck lunch at noon, and the talk starts at 1pm. All Orchidists Welcome. "http://www.soos.ca/"

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COCnews

The purpose of COCnews 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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