



# NEWS

**Volume 26.3– May 2014**



## President's Rambles

Hi All. This being the last issue of the COC Newsletter before the summer break, it is time to look forward and also at the successes of the spring season.

Inge and I were privileged to attend the Edmonton Orchid Society of Alberta show and also society meetings in Vancouver, Fraser Valley and Victoria this past month.

The Edmonton Show was held at a beautiful large new venue under glass that made for a wonderful setting for the show's displays and excellently grown plants. There were over 30 nominations for AOS judging and 10 plants got awarded. This 3 day show in a brand new location attracted over 3000 visitors. The COC trophy went to Darryll Albert the Past President and Show Chairman for a well presented diverse display of orchid plants and his ongoing work in support of the society and the show. At the awards banquet the society pledged the silent auction proceeds to COC. Congratulations Alberta Orchid society on a well organised, well run and well advertised show.

The British Columbia meetings we visited were all well attended and featured excellent show tables with impressive plants. Thank you to all of our hosts, we enjoyed our visit. The orchid hobby is obviously alive and thriving. Our apologies to the local shows we missed, Rochester, Ottawa and Toronto Artistic.

Now to the future. I was pleased to see members of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society doing the rounds of show vendors in Edmonton soliciting their participation in the 2015 COC AGM to be held in Saskatoon.

### 2014 COC AGM Toronto

The next COC annual general meeting is coming up August 9 and 10th in Toronto. It will be held in conjunction with the Southern Ontario Orchid Societies' Orchid Fest on August 10. The program is for our AGM to be held on Saturday August 9 at the home of Doug and Terry Kennedy. The workshop for delegates on Show and society publicity including electronic media has unfortunately had to be cancelled, however if enough people are interested we can have an informal discussion after the AGM. The AGM will again be accessible electronically for COC official society delegates. The Kennedys will host a barbeque after the working sessions Saturday evening. SOOS

will host all members of orchid societies starting Sunday morning 9:30 am at the Toronto Botanical Garden. The day will start with AOS judging. Around noon there will be an auction in support of COC along with a pot luck lunch followed by two orchid talks by **Roy Tokunaga from Hawaii**. Roy will bring plants for sale. It should be a fun and interesting weekend with plenty of time to meet and greet old orchid friends. Plan to join us. Have your society donate an auction item, past president Ingrid Ostrander has donated four orchid pictures done by her late husband. Thank you Ingrid.

### COC bylaws

We are incorporated as a non profit organization under federal law. The federal government requires us to re-approve our bylaws this year before October in order to maintain our incorporation. We will need the assistance of all of our member societies to do this when we have the appropriate documentation ready. So please stay tuned.

### Elections

We need to elect a slate of officers for the following year at our AGM in August. The officers that need to be elected are a President, two vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The current President has served way beyond what is reasonable and one vice-presidency is currently vacant. If anyone is interested in any of these positions or is interested in doing anything for COC please contact myself. The qualifications are membership in good standing in a member society and an interest in fostering national connectedness.

*Peter Poot.*

### Cover photos:

*Top - COC Trophy for most Diverse Display won by Darryll Albert, Orchid Society of Alberta Show, Edmonton*

*Bottom - Orchid Society of Alberta Show, Overview*

## News from Orchid Journal

Orchid Journal continues to support our shows, publicity efforts and posts as many pictures as we can including displays, candid shots etc. So if you have pictures, post them to our timeline to share.

In other news, OJ has been invited to review a new book on Phals coming out this fall. We'll have the scoop on this one from Europe to be published in an electronic format!

Things are winding down on show activity so now is the time to review our successes and yes, even our failures.

Happy postings and see you in August,

Have a safe summer,

Marlene



*Mario Ferrusi, of Marsh Hollow Orchids, enjoys a frivolous moment while constructing his award winning (Silver Certificate from the American Orchid Society) display at the weekend show of the TAOA in Toronto.*



*Ecuagenera wins Grand Champion at Shanghai International Orchid Show, March 2014*



*Cyrtorchilum macranthum 'Marsh Hollow Jewel' - awarded an AM of 83 pts., to Mario & Conni Ferrusi at the Orchid Show of the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association.*

## VANILLA

### More to the story than ice cream

We all appreciate our favourite flavouring for just about anything sweet. Vanilla (vanillin) is a natural product of the orchid, *Vanilla planifolia*, that grows wild in Mexico and Central America but is now cultivated in tropical plantations around the world. If you thought that this was the only *Vanilla* species, think again. There are some 100 species found in both the New and Old World tropics. All are vines, some are leafless, and a few have spectacular flowers. Most species do not produce vanillin but could be used through hybridization to introduce diseases that plague vanilla crops.



*Vanilla phalaenopsis* - A leafless species from the Seychelles archipelago



*Vanilla africana* - West and Central West Africa

The 5th International Orchid Conservation Congress was held in Ile de la Réunion in early December 2014. Reunion Island is located about 800 km east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. This volcanic island is an overseas Département of France and hence part of the European Union. One of their major crops is vanilla. We toured was the CIRAD Biological Resources Center (CRB) where the largest collection of *Vanilla* species in the world is managed in a shade house collection and also conserved using in vitro and cryopreservation techniques. Many different species of *Vanilla* were in full bloom.

I was fascinated to learn about *Vanilla*, both as an orchid genus and about the process of producing vanilla. Lots of pictures were taken with the intent of developing an illustrated presentation about this interesting genus. Watch for news of this by summer's end.



*Vanilla pompona* - another source of vanilla flavouring from Mexico and Central America

Marilyn Light (Photos by Marilyn Light)

[Kafrin Vanilla](#), The Best of Madagascar Vanilla Beans: Our site provides complete information on vanilla, vanilla beans, and how it evolves from a tropical orchid to the flavor-rich vanilla bean one is familiar with.

[The Vanilla Company](#): All about vanilla.

## Victoria OS COC Trophy

At the Victoria BC orchid show, March 8 - 9 2014, the winner of the COC trophy, as the "Best Miniature Orchid, was *Telipogon ariasii*, owned by Bryan Emery and Florence Davis of Victoria.

Bryan got the plant several years ago from a Peruvian nursery. He keeps it in a cool/intermediate greenhouse, potted loosely inside double clay containers to achieve good drainage and high humidity. The sequentially blooming flowers appear for a long time and are very showy - see photograph.



*Telipogon ariasii*

## COC Medal Award at l'exposition Orchidophiles de Québec

At the recent Orchidofolie 2014 in Québec, the COC Medal Award for the most artistic exhibit went to Les Orchidophiles du Saguenay Lac St-Jean. This exciting exhibit was staged by Paul Jean. It garnered 16 ribbons including six firsts. A wonderfully fragrant *Clowesia rosea* owned by Paul Jean won rosettes for Best-Other Genera and for Best Species.

Le trophée du COC au présentoir le plus artistique à l'exposition des Orchidophiles de Québec a été gagné par les Orchidophiles du Saguenay Lac Saint-Jean. Ce présentoir a gagné 16 rubans dont six premières places, et les trophées pour la Meilleure des Autres Genres et a la Meilleure Espèce pour le *Clowesia rosea* de Paul Jean.

Photos - Michael MacConaill



*Clowesia rosea*

## Orchid Photography

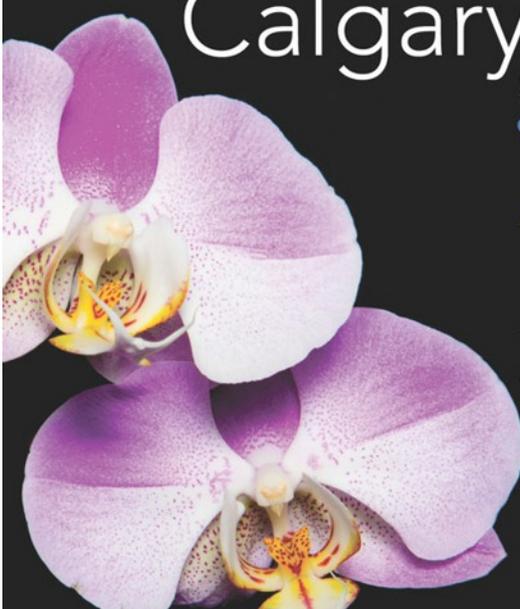
[How to Get the Best Results](#)

[360 Degree Orchid Photography](#)

[Advanced Orchid Photography Techniques - Forum](#)



*At l'exposition Orchidophiles de Québec the COC Medal Award for the most artistic exhibit went to Les Orchidophiles du Saguenay Lac St-Jean.*



Calgary Orchid  
SHOW & SALE  
[calgaryorchidshow.com](http://calgaryorchidshow.com)

June 7<sup>TH</sup> . . . 12<sup>PM</sup>–5<sup>PM</sup>  
8<sup>TH</sup> . . . 10<sup>AM</sup>–4<sup>PM</sup>

Triwood Community Centre  
2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW

Presented by the  
**FOS** FOOTHILLS  
orchid society

© Photo courtesy of Seokhee Kim

## Books and Expeditions

My name is Stewart McPherson. I have just published a beautiful, two volume work called A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species, authored by leading orchid experts Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons.

The two volumes are nearly 1,200 pages long, with over 1,800 spectacular photos of miniature orchids in culture and the wild, featuring individual entries for over 500 different species across more than 120 genera. Each species entry includes nomenclature and etymological information, as well as cultivation guidance and notes about habitat, conservation status and similarities to other orchids taxa. It is the most comprehensive, illustrated reference for miniature orchid species published to date; offers a uniquely detailed overview of selected miniature orchid species and cultivars from across 122 genera in an encyclopaedic format; and includes the first print published images of a number of different species. Please see the following links for more information:

[miniature-orchid-species-vol-1](#)

[miniature-orchid-species-vol-2](#)

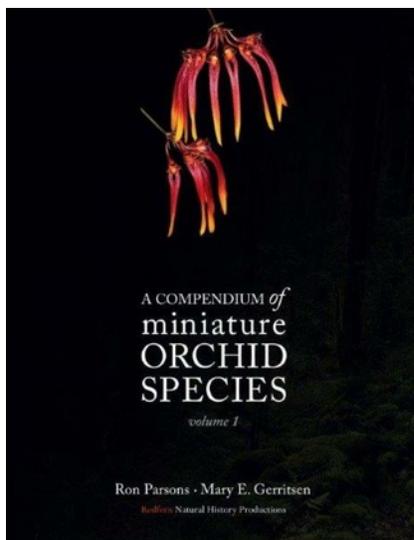
We can offer a 20% discount on the retail price of the books on group orders.

Additionally, I am organizing three specialist orchid expeditions to Borneo and Venezuela.

[A 16-day Borneo Orchid Expedition](#)

[A 12-day Orchids of Mount Roraima Expedition](#)

[A 16-day Orchids of Auyan Tepui and Angel Falls](#)



*COC Medal won by Orchids in Our Tropics for most artistic display at the London OS show*





**The COC winner at the Vancouver Orchid Society Show was the Vancouver Orchid Society display.**

The winner of the COC medal had over 110 orchids displayed on many tables, separated by a metal grid, which allowed smaller orchids to be seen at eye level. The variety was high, and several large specimen plants graced the tables, among which a *Dendrobium delicatum*, a *Phaius Microburst Oktoberfest* and a large bowl of blooming *Pleione Tongariro*. The number of scented plants was such that there was a delicious aroma at all times. A display that provided a lot of interest for the visitors to the Vancouver Orchid Society Show.

*Image by Ed Higham*

## **2014 COC Travel Grant**

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2014 Travel Grant. We are extending the deadline next year so that societies can apply for the grant from January 1/14 to June 1/14. Preference will be given to societies that didn't receive the grant this year. The instructions and application form are here on the [COC website](#).

Please remember that if you received the grant this year you must do a brief write-up about how the money was spent. This will be published in the COC newsletter.

*Gail Schwarz, rschwarz@eastlink.ca*

# COMING EVENTS

2014

**June 7-8:** [The Foothills Orchid Society](#), Fabulous flowers, colors, shapes and fragrance. International growers. Live demonstrations. The Foothills Orchid Society presents The Calgary Orchid Show and Sale 'Orchids for Everyone' at the Triwood Community Centre, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW, Calgary on Saturday June 7, noon to 5 and Sunday June 8, 10 to 4. Admission \$10, Free Parking. calgaryorchidshow.com

**Aug 10:** The 2014 Canadian Orchid Congress Annual Meeting will be hosted by the [Southern Ontario Orchid Society](#) in conjunction with their summer Orchidfest at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, Lawrence Avenue East at Leslie Street.

**Sept 10-14:** The [21st World Orchid Conference](#) "Orchids: Gold in the Green Age" will take place in the vibrant city of Johannesburg, South Africa at the world class Sandton Convention Centre.

**Sept 27-28:** [The Central Ontario Orchid Society](#) Cambridge Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge.

Get your show dates, with details, to the COC editor.

## Officers of the Canadian Orchid Congress

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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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