Canadian Orchid Congress
Fédération Canadienne des Sociétés Orchidophiles

COC news

Volume 27.3– May 2015

COC Medal Saskatoon AGM Show, Most Diverse Exhibit, Saskatchewan Orchid Society

President's Message

At our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Saskatoon, a lot was accomplished between the COC Executive Team and members who were in attendance either physically or electronically via Goto Meeting. It is hard to believe 7 months had already passed since our last AGM! Minutes and all relevant documentation of the AGM were distributed earlier this month by Jerry Bolce and can be found in the COC website at: http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/cocagm.html

One of the "big-ticket" items of upcoming initiatives is the approval to purchase the Webinar software so that the COC can augment our efforts on education and outreach, and start producing Webinars for our member societies. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Webinar, it is a technology where presentations/meetings/discussions can be broadcast via the Internet along with supporting documents like PowerPoint, PDF files. The session can also be recorded for review/redeployment at any time. This technology is being used widely in the for-profit and public sectors and it had also been proven highly successful with our counterpart at the American Orchid Society for their education and outreach efforts.

The COC vision for the Webinar is that it will be an added means of education for our member societies and outreach tools for the public. Webinar can also address the gap that currently exists in many smaller, remote societies where finding out-of-town or international speakers is often a challenging and expensive affair. As the Webinars will be archived in the COC website and can be redeployed at any time, societies may choose to broadcast one of the available webinars in lieu of a monthly speaker in certain months. Depending on the topics, Societies may choose to broadcast the Webinar during their cultural classes as well. By no mean we are suggesting Webinar will replace society's monthly meetings, however it can serve as an excellent tool to enhance member society's programming and reduce operating costs. The original commitment for the COC is to produce 3 webinars in the next 12 months, and the Executive Team is working tirelessly to confirm both Canadian and International speakers for the upcoming series. Stay tuned for this exciting and innovative initiative!

In order to deepen the COC's relationship with our membership, approval was granted at the AGM to resurrect the Members Liaison Officer (MLO) position. Reporting to the COC Board of Directors (BoD), the COC Liaison Officer serves as the single point of contact between COC and its member societies. With the focus at the COC representative level, this role oversees general communications, and coordinate efforts between member societies mainly via electronic means. Robin McLaughlin, active member of Southern Ontario Orchid Society, had graciously agreed to take on this role. Robin's first assignment as the COC MLO is to coordinate the OrchidWiz group order. Details to follow in the newsletter on this exciting group order opportunities and I encourage everyone to take advantage of this!

This is our last Newsletter before breaking for the seasons, however your COC Board of Directors and the Executive Team will continue to work through the summer and plan for other deliverables for our members.

Until then, enjoy the beautiful spring and summer wherever you are in this beautiful country, and happy growing!

Calvin Wong

President, Canadian Orchid Congress

President@canadianorchidcongress.ca

2015 COC Travel Grant

It's not too late to apply for the 2015 Travel Grant. The cut-off date for applications is June 1/15. Please e-mail your applications to me as soon as possible as time is running out. The instructions and application form are on the COC website and you can e-mail the application to me. No signature is required.

Gail Schwarz rschwarz@eastlink.ca

COC Personnel Changes

I am happy to report that most of the Board of Directors and Executive Team members from the previous year will continue, with the exception of the Second Vice President and Conservation Chair roles.

Due to personal reasons, Nathan Cable had to step down from his 2nd VP role after the first term. Wayne Louie, director in the Fraser Valley OS, graciously agreed to take on the role as Second VP for the COC. Amongst many talents, Wayne is an accredited AOS judge, Secretary of the Pacific Northwest Judging Center for the AOS and past Show Chair of FVOS. Wayne brings with him in-depth knowledge and background on graphic and web designs, marketing and communication. Wayne's focus during his term will be on IT related initiatives.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Nathan Cable, for all his efforts in the last seven months as 2nd VP.

Marilyn Light, our long time Conservation Chair and past President of the COC, decided to retired from the COC Conservation chair position. Marilyn served in many different capacities in the COC, and through the years supported the COC and its member societies in advancing the Conservation, Cultivation and Education agendas for orchids in Canada.

Lorne Heshka, past presidents of the Manitoba Orchid Society and the North American Native Orchid Group, past VP of the COC, as well as a published author and photographer, agreed to return to the COC Executive team and assume the role as Conservation Chair for the COC.

A decision was made at the recent AGM to resurrect the Members Liaison Officer (MLO) position. Robin McLaughlin, active member of Southern Ontario Orchid Society, enthusiastically agreed to take on this role.

Please join me in welcoming Wayne, Lorne and Robin to the team, and wishing both Nathan and Marilyn all the best in their future endeavours.

Calvin Wong

Lorne Heshka - COC Conservation Chair

Born and raised in a farming community in rural Saskatchewan - my mother would often take me for nature walks in the surrounding forest. One of the flowers I recall seeing was the yellow lady's slipper. It was only many years later that I learned that this plant was an orchid.

My first experience with tropical orchids came during a United Nations Assignment to Thailand in July of 1989. The individuals I worked with noted my fascination with these plants and ensured that a substantial assortment of these wonder flowers along with appropriate paperwork came back to Canada with me.

Of course I knew nothing of how to grow these plants and fortunately a friend pointed me to the Manitoba Orchid Society. It was there that the "experts" shared their knowledge with me.

In appreciation of all the assistance I was given - I volunteered to the position of President of the Manitoba Orchid Society, occupying that position for several years. The next logical step was to take on responsibility as Show chair. Thankfully an excellent core of volunteers made this task most enjoyable.

Growing tropical orchids reminded me of those yellow lady-slippers back on the farm and soon my wife Joan and I were totally involved in searching out and photographing wild orchids. Protection of native orchids soon became a priority and conservation projects of the wild orchid became a priority of the Manitoba Orchid Society. This in turn lead me to the North American Native Orchid group based in North Carolina and I soon accepted responsibility as President of this international organization.

With that term completed, I have taken some time to smell the roses or should I say the orchids!!!

Lorne Heshka

Orchid Journal at the European Orchid Congress

OJ's journey to the Royal Horticultural Society in London, England for the Editorial Forum at the EOC was not without it's funny moments!

A few days after the opening of the show we gathered in the hallowed halls of the RHS. We quickly passed through security and finally entered the wood panelled council room of the RHS complete with original paintings of famous past members.

I was early and met by Sarah Forysth and David Lafarge of L'Orchidophile (France). Sarah, the editor of RHS' Orchid Review, rushed around removing dead and dying plants from the room. Not a good first impression she laughed and I knew I would fit in. While Sarah quickly found some no-name phalaenopsis to grace the side table we readied ourselves for the others.

We were joined by Lady Samantha Hurley (Sam), editor of The Journal of the Orchid Society of Great Britain, and I was surprised since this very likeable, outgoing, confident lady was one of the people I had chatted with the night before. Others began to join us including Rudoph Jenny, Olaf Gruss, Dr. Heiko Hentrich, University of Basel, Switzerland just to name a few of who's who in orchids.

OJ was the only virtual type 'magazine' to attend the conference and we quickly realized that our 'circulation' numbers far far outweighed conventional journals. Different journals but all facing similar challenges with costs of production and circulation. Added to the obvious hurtles were the many different languages throughout Europe making any type of consolidation challenging. Some of the paper format journals were very much like our own COC newsletter.

It had been several years since the last forum and not many things had changed for them aside from the mounting challenges to garner articles and photos with correct ID's. In some case editors actually wrote articles under pseudonyms. Most had been editors for years and seemed comfortable with the conventional methods, others, like Heiko, Curator Orchid Collection Jany Renz, make their magazine available via e-format.

A general agreement was formed regarding the advertising of the journals and L'Orchidophile (France) and Orchid Review (RHS) offered to supply FREE advertising space to the journals themselves. A generous and forward thinking agreement that was indicative of the attitudes in the room that reflected the overall appreciation of orchids.

The forum was informative but seemed to end too quickly for most of us. A friendly, outgoing group of people brought together to discuss the challenges and learn from each other. Many of us lingered after the meeting to trade email addresses ensuring continued dialogue. Orchid Journal gathered their share of inquisitive questions from the University of Basal and Dr Hentrich, who offered free access to their photo catalog, along with our promise to Scotland and Finland to keep them informed of the COC progress with the webinar concept of redeployment for non WiFi locations.

OJ would be remiss to close this dialogue without comments on the show itself. Some of the photos will reflect the grandeur of the halls and the displays were inspiring. The world famous Writhlington Orchid School Project had an educational interactive display complete with a chance to deflask orchids and walk away with a small sample for yourself. Dr Henry Oakeley, my Lycaste idol, spent a few minutes chatting with me about his past visit with us in Canada.

What was different you ask? Well, vendors were scattered throughout the halls (there were two) and their stands were amongst the displays! Speakers were rotated all day for the crowds in a staging area just above the display floor.

And surprising to OJ were the number of displays that had garden orchids! Yes, displays with hyacinths and liberally sprinkled throughout magnificent swaths of Cypripediums accounted for a third of the displays. This reflects the growing trend that OJ has seen throughout our recent mini series. We will revisit this subject on OJ throughout the gardening season here in Canada.

Have a wonderful summer and happy postings,

Marlene Young

Photos from the European Orchid Congress thanks to Marlene Young

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society Celebrates 50 Years

This year the Toronto based society is celebrating 50 years since its founding meeting. As reported by the late Walter Norman "On June 24th, 1965 a number of people, interested in (the) formation of an Orchid Society, met at the home of Mrs. G. F. Wells in Port Credit (Ontario).

The late Dr. G. E. David furnished the names of some growers in the Toronto area, and Mr. J Lamb, of Dales Greenhouses in Brampton also was interested in helping, feeling that amateurs especially needed an organization to aid them in growing these fabulous flowers, and kindly gave Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Caswell other names of orchid enthusiasts." There were 15 persons present at this founding meeting. At that time there were no orchid plant vendors in the Toronto area. Plants were either imported and passed around or bought from the collections of cut flower growers such as Dales: mainly Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis, some Epidendrums and some Paphiopedilums (Cyps at that time).

Over the next 10 years the society grew to 200 members and then to over 300. The society organized trips to growers and shows in the USA. A library was started. There were tours of member's growing areas and there were some mini shows as well as participation in area flower shows that stimulated the membership numbers. An orchid evaluation group was formed to study and encourage quality in orchids. Out of this group came participation in Orchid judging and putting in displays in other orchid shows and eventually AOS orchid judges and an AOS Toronto Judging Centre. In the spring of 1979 SOOS held its first AOS judged two day show at the Toronto Civic Garden Centre (now the Toronto Botanical Garden). This has become the annual Toronto orchid show that is held every spring by the members of SOOS. As part of these shows SOOS has hosted a number of Mid America Orchid Congresses, an Eastern Orchid congress, an AOS Members meeting, and several Canadian Orchid Congress meetings. As the Greater Toronto area grew new local orchid groups formed and SOOS is now down to about 200 members. SOOS has over its fifty years had the benefit of enthusiastic dedicated members that have freely contributed their time and expertise. We celebrate them and our fifty years with a special Dendrobium from H&R Orchids called "SOOS Celebrates 50".

Peter Poot.

AGM AOS Show Trophy won by OSPF

Techsoup

Applying for subsidized/discounted software from Techsoup, Canada

As we discussed during the recent AGM, Orchid Societies in Canada are non-profit and can apply for discounts on software that they may be able to use in managing their society's administration tasks.

Before attempting the process you need to have the following items at the ready.

- your society's corporation papers - this should contain all of the directors as well as your society's mission statement, address, etc
- recent financial statement
- number of members
- a credit card

"Techsoup Canada is a team of 8 people dedicated to empowering charities, nonprofits and libraries with the effective use of technology."

Each society must apply separately and will receive an answer quickly if they have provided the correct information. In most cases, discounts on software can be 50%.

Eventually you will receive a listing of software that your organization qualifies for and remember, there may be a waiting list too.

Each software company may make their packages available at certain times of the year and some may automatically renew your software purchase yearly charging your credit card so PLEASE READ THE CONDITIONS CAREFULLY to understand your application.

http://www.techsoupcanada.ca/

Marlene Young

Marilyn Light

At the COC AGM in Saskatoon this year the delegates awarded Marilyn Light the COC Certificate Award for long time service to the Canadian Orchid community.

Marilyn has served COC in a variety of roles since its founding meeting in Vancouver. She has been our long time Conservation Chair, she has served as President, she and her husband have provided us with educational slide and DVD programs, and she has lectured widely across Canada and the world.

Marilyn has authored books and many articles about orchids and orchid culture. She has done research on our native orchids and is an active member of the Orchid Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. She is also a member of the Ottawa Orchid Society.

As conservation chair she has kept us abreast of developments in international and Canada wide regulations respecting importation and export of orchid plants, a necessary but often unthankful job.

As you retire from COC conservation chair, we thank you Marilyn for your long distinguished service to the Canadian orchid community.

Peter Poot.

Le médaille FCSO (2015) gagné par le présentoir des orchidées odorantes à Québec

Oh, que la nature est bien conçue. Lors de l'exposition Orchidfolie 2015 à Québec, nous nous sommes arrêtés à l'exhibit des odorantes. J'adore les parfums! Devant cet exhibit simple mais très intriguant ,nous sommes envahis par des odeurs succulentes. Ces orchidées sont disposées à travers une branche d'arbre de forme humaine. Avec de l'imagination, on pourrait même apercevoir un ange tout en haut. Cette disposition nous permet de respirer ces parfums séparement. Que ce soit le dendrobium Nestor, le cattleya Walkerinter, l'oncidium Sharry Baby, le doriteonopsis Ping Tong Gold ou le phalaenopsis Gan Lin Royal, ils ont chacun leurs parfums légers et enivrants à la fois. Les odeurs s'accentuent à certains moments de la journée.

Marjolaine Plante, Les Orchidophiles de Québec

Cattleya Walkerinter was judged the most fragrant orchid. Photo by Marilyn Light

2015 COC Medal, Fragrance exhibit - Orchidofolie 2015, Québec

Fragrance! It is what captures the attention of orchid enthusiasts. Visitors to Orchidofolie 2015, Québec City, were greeted by a graceful display of differently scented orchids arranged around an intriguing tree branch which with some imagination appeared to be a person striding amongst the plants. The orchids were few but differently scented including Den. Nestor smelling of raspberries, rose/lily scented C. Walkerinter, Onc. Sharry Baby with an unmistakable chocolate odour, and richly-scented Phalaenopsis, Ping Tong Gold and Gan Lin Royal. Each orchid could be savoured separately with odours varying throughout the day. This fascinating and artistic display was created by members of the Orchidophiles de Québec to display entries in the Fragrance Category. They are to be congratulated on the novel approach to artistic display of scented orchids that is well deserving of the COC Medal.

Marilyn Light, Ottawa Orchid Society

The COC Medal winner at Orchidofolie 2015. Photo by Michael MacConaill

COC Medal at the RBG Show,
Best First time exhibitor,
Cymbidium Double Eagle 'Isabel'

COC Medal SOOS Show, Artistic Merit,
Concrete Elegance by Alla Linetsky

COC Medal London Orchid Show, Most Artistic Arrangement, Joe DiCiommo Orchids

COC Medal Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Show, Most Artistic Arrangement

COC Medal Saskatoon AGM Show, Most Diverse Exhibit, Saskatchewan Orchid Society

Bob Lucas of S.O.S. accepting the COC award from Calvin Wong

Calvin Wong presenting David Nixon of OSPF the COC award for Show Grand Champion, the winning plant Jumellea arachnantha below.

Poul and Adele Hansen received the COC Trophy for best display under 21 plants.

Their fifteen-plant display consisted of three very large Phragmipediums Amitabha 'Prospect Lake' AM/AOS, (which also received the award for 'Best Phragmipdium' in show), one seedling Paph. rothschildianum, two very large Miltoniopsis (one primary hybrid and one hybrid Mps. Pleasant Surprise that received 'Best Miltoniopsis' in show), three Odontoglossums, one awarded Alcra. Mem. Teruo Oka 'Adele' AM/AOS, and a large basket overflowing with Miltoniopsis seedlings with two lovely white crispum-type Odontoglossums.

In keeping with this year's theme ("High on Orchids") a super-sized, bronze dragonfly was placed on the backdrop high above the blossoms. - Ingrid Ostrander

The Victoria Orchid Society was the COC Medal winner for the best overall display at the Vancouver Orchid Society 2015 Annual Show. Their display had 32 high quality plants, of which several large specimen plants. There were 2 AOS nominations and one Best of Class. The theme of their display was a river flowing.

Ed Higham, photographer

Are You Mobile Friendly?

Google has announced that its search engine will favour websites that it defines as "mobile friendly" on devices such as tablets and smart phones.

Websites must be designed so they load quickly on mobile devices. Content must also be easily accessible by scrolling up and down - without having to also swipe to the left or right. It also helps if all buttons or menus can be easily seen and touched on smaller screens. A person might not even bother to look at sites that take a long time to open or are difficult to read on mobile devices.

You can use Google Analytics to find out what percentage of contacts you are getting from mobile devices. That number keeps rising and I find it is about 20%.

The websites that are mobile friendly are either "responsive" or "adaptive". Responsive websites automatically adjust the text and images to fit on whatever the screen size is. Adaptive websites have several copies of a page and the copy that fits the display size the best is the one delivered.

To aid the process Google created a step-by-step guide (http://bit.ly/1GyC0Id) and a tool to test compliance with the new standards (http://bit.ly/1EVi9R3).

So far of the websites I support, the website www.coos.ca is the most mobile friendly. It is just one page and easy to work with. Google is happy with the main page of the COC site but it needs some work and I haven't checked any other pages.

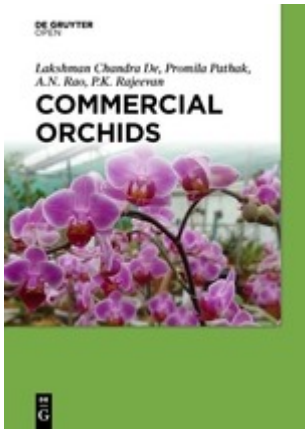
Check your website on the link above, have a look at it on a smart phone and plan if and when you need to make some changes.

Jerry Bolce

COMMERCIAL ORCHIDS

by Lakshman Chandra De

The book discusses the commercial side of orchid growing, including the current global orchid trade scenario, biodiversity, conservation and characterization of valuable species. Species, such as Vanda, Cymbidium, Ascocentrum, Paphiopedilum, Calanthe and Dendrobium are in great demand for their outstanding breeding materials. The author, one of the most distinguished Indian floriculturists, shares his experience and research results on breeding approaches for improved genotypes, micropropagation for mass multiplication of commercially important species, physiology of tropical and temperate orchids, production technology of orchids for cut flowers, potted orchids and medicinal orchids and post-harvest management of commercial orchids.



Orchids have long been a symbol of glamour and opulence, but it is only in the last decade or two, that they have moved from the realm of a stylish hobby to the mainstream ornamental crop. This new title will be a valuable contribution to all those who cultivate orchids for profit.

The book is available fully in open access to read, download and share on De Gruyter Online.

In Memory of Judy Adams

Judy was born in 1934 in England but was raised in India during the war. She returned to Britain in 1947 when India became independent. Her love of cycling and racing led her to meet the love of her life, Malcolm. She and Malcolm worked at the same company (unbeknownst to each other) and one day after work, Malcolm and his friend, both avid cyclists, were waiting to see who the man that owned the fancy racing bike parked outside was. They were surprised to find out that the owner of the bike was none other than Judy!

Judy and Malcolm married a few years later and came to Canada when Malcolm was offered a job at Pratt & Whitney in Longueuil. They lived in Beloeil for a while but eventually moved to Mont St-Hilaire where they designed and built their home with their own hands! Malcolm, ever the engineer, built some of the furniture in the house and later, plant growth cabinets.

I once asked Judy how she came to be interested in orchids and she surprised me with her reply. Malcolm went by a greenhouse after school as a teenager and was really intrigued with the orchids inside! When their children, Mark and Gail were young though, orienteering became the family's passion. Malcolm made the maps and each family member participated.

The orchid spark was reignited in the early 90's when Judy and Malcolm joined ECOS. They immediately became active members taking over the newsletter responsibilities and working at the show. [Malcolm edited the COC Newsletter from April 1993 until Dec/98] Judy later became Show Chair and took on Exec duties. Malcolm became the computer IT person, writing a program for registration and awards. Judy went on to become an AOS judge and Malcolm to build climate controlled Wardian cases made specifically for cool growing Masdevallias.

They each were good growers and their plants won many awards (AOS, COC, Best in Show). Malcolm specialized in Masdevallias and Judy's passion was Paphs and Phrags. Anyone who ever visited her knew what a large number of species she had, as well as how she grew them. Some were under lights, some were on windowsills, some were in the kitchen along the counters, some were in the greenhouse that Malcolm had constructed, some were outside on the deck in the summer. And when Malcolm passed, she nurtured the precious Masdevallias in the growth cabinets and treated us to their lovely blooms at the show table.

What I did not know, was that Judy also bred orchids. She made crosses, brought the pod to maturity and then sowed the seed onto growth medium in Erlenmeyer flasks. She germinated the seeds, grew the seedlings and transplanted them several times into flasks before they were big enough for community pots. This was truly a labour of love.

Judy was an amazing woman. She was a fountain of knowledge and was always willing to share and inspire. I worked with her the last years she was Show Chair and I was always impressed with her kindness and courtesy and her fortitude. She will be missed by all of us.

Judy designed the emblem that adorns the COC medallions.

Andre Couture

COMING EVENTS

2015

May 23-24: The Foothills Orchid Society (Calgary, Alberta) 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 May 23, noon to 5 and Sunday May 24, 10 to 4. Admission $10, Free Parking.

June 5 - 6: Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival. Celebrate the diversity and beauty of wild blooming native orchids and wildflowers in their unique natural habitat on the Bruce Peninsula. Naturalist guided hikes, car caravans, photography workshops, celebratory wine & cheese reception and speaker presentations cap this festival, headquartered at Parks Canada Visitor Centre. The events schedule and registration online at www.orchidfest.ca, starting May 2015.

June 27: OSPF has agreed to provide a display and speaker at the Alberta Horticultural Association's AGM & Conference being held in Edmonton

Sunday July 5: 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 potluck lunch at noon, and there are talks starting at 1 pm. This year, SOOS is hosting Juan Philipe Posada from Colombia; he is the owner of Colomborquideas. They specialize in cool growing Andean orchids. All Orchidists Welcome.

Sept 26-27: The Central Ontario Orchid Society, Cambridge Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge.

Oct 16-18: OSPF second annual Orchid Exhibit to be held at Salisbury Greenhouses on Friday Oct 16 through to Sunday Oct 18. Salisbury is open, Fri: 10:00 – 6:00; Sat: 9:00 – 6:00; Sun: 10:00 – 5:00. The Exhibit is not a conventional Orchid Show in that it is not a judged show but the focus will be on education. There will be displays of orchids from around the world, information displays on the Wagner Natural Area, the OSPF Education in the Schools initiative, a children's investigation area, a speakers section on topics of interest to the general public about orchids, vendors will also be present to sell orchids. Admission is free but donations to the OSPF would be welcome.

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

Visit us at the COC Web Site and on Facebook

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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 urged to pass a copy on to other members of their society.

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