

news

Volume 17.1 - January 2005

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Somehow the holiday season has gone by so quickly and here we are in a new year. The days are getting noticeably longer and my windowsill plants are starting to show the results. The phals are all in spike and a couple of minicatts have produced flowers. Another month and the orchid show season begins. Time to get the plants looking their best. Time to think of which plants need to find a new home to make room for that plant you just must have. Especially for me who is planning to go to the WOC in Dijon, no doubt to be severely tempted.

The CITES parties recently had a meeting in Thailand and agreed to a change in the rules for exporting orchids. Certain hybrids may now be moved from country to country, in pots and in bloom, without CITES papers. What will it mean to us? Asian countries have the climate and the cheaper labor for producing mass quantities of plants. They have also spent years on breeding programs to develop "better" plants. We will see the mass marketing of great plants to compete with mums, cyclamens and the like. It will mean a lot more people having access to orchid plants who might want to join a club. It will also make it very difficult for local dealers to bloom a plant for the same price as the imports. Dealers had best find a niche in the market of specialty plants.

In this newsletter is an article giving more details on the CITES changes. Watch the Canadian CITES website for when the new rules take effect in Canada. Also have a look at the other website mentioned for pictures of what can be imported. I left for last the comment that all the changes appear to apply only to commercial, large shipments, not to an individual wanting to bring a few plants home from another country.

Jerry Bolce - Editor



The Notice Board

FORC

The Foundation for Orchid Research and Conservation (FORC) has been in existence for just over 6 months now and I thought I would update people as to what has been happening.

The Directors have been named with the following people and positions:

President- Douglas Alison
Vice-President- Lynne Cassidy
Secretary- Marjorie Disher
Treasurer- Allan Ross
Member-at-large-Mark Elliott

It was also decided that the President of the Vancouver Orchid Society would be an "ex-officio" member.

FORC has an arrangement with the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), whereby NSERC advertises an annual grant from FORC available to successful applicants doing graduate work in orchid biology/conservation. The applicant must hold NSERC funding and apply to FORC for a supplement to their NSERC award (see the NSERC website for application requirements http://www.nserc.gc.ca/sf_e.asp?nav=sfnv&lbi=orchid).

There were several people interested in the annual scholarship offered for the first time this past June through the NSERC partnership, with one complete application being received. However, the Directors decided that the application did not quite meet the requirements for funding. Other individuals showed interest in applying in the next round of applications due in June of 2005.

The FORC has received charitable status allowing us to issue income tax receipts for any donations to help support the scholarships.

In addition, FORC still has some copies of the Proceeding of the 16th WOC available for purchase at \$20.00 plus p&h. Please contact us if you are interested.

Mark Elliott, email: melliott@mrl.ubc.ca

COC Dues

As a reminder to everyone, the due date for your 2005 COC dues is fast approaching. The membership fee is \$1.00 for each member of your society. The COC membership year is January 1 to December 31, the same as a calendar year. Your COC dues are due by January 31, 2005. Invoice for your dues was e-mailed to each society in November.

Native Orchid Conference - Manitoba, July 9-12, 2005

The annual meeting of the Native Orchid Conference will be held at St. Benedict's Retreat & Conference Centre, 225 Masters Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 9-12, 2005. Please e-mail Lorne Heshka at lheshka@mts.net if you would like to receive a Conference flyer. Alternatively, phone Lorne at (204)663-6850.

The tentative agenda includes a whole day devoted to The Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, *Platanthera praeclara*. A field trip to the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve and other sites in southeastern Manitoba will be held on the following day when we will have an excellent opportunity to see one of Canada's most endangered species. There will be a range of presentations on the third day followed by visits to see other native orchids on the fourth day.

Anyone interested in Canada's native orchids should enjoy this conference.

Slide Programs

Cattleyas - by Ken Girard.

Oncidiums - by Gordon Heaps.

Fragrant Orchids by Marilyn Light.

Hardy Orchids and Their Culture by Bill Bischoff

Phragmipediums by Ingrid Ostrander

Lycastes by Ingrid Ostrander

More information on the programs is available on the COC website.

Phantoms of the Forest

Since we have moved from Alberta to Vancouver Island, several years ago, a few of our friends, knowing that we love and grow orchids, have invited us to visit their gardens, acreages and favourite woods to meet the wild orchids of Vancouver Island.

There are no *Cypripediums* here - this is the land of the Northwest Pacific Rain Forest and from October to February, it rains. A lot of limestone rock can be found here, but the constant rain achieves a rather acidic soil. Our treasured *Cypripediums* that we brought with us from Alberta, have mostly succumbed to this constant, soft and gentle rain. It did not help to cover the ground around our plants with lime. It also did not help to cover the plants themselves during the winter, trying to keep off the rain. It did not help to put them into pots, in the alpine house. Slowly but surely they all went away. These mainland dwellers do not belong here!

Of course, there are many other orchids that have evolved in this area and they do very nicely. We have seen groves of *Calypso bulbosa* and the immigrant *Epipactis helleborine* is becoming a weed in the flower beds. There are *Goodyeras* and other tiny-flowered species, we find different *Corallorhizae*, *Spiranthes*, *Platantheras* and many others.

Then, two years ago, a friend showed me orchids that are not supposed to grow here, but they do. They are listed as growing only in Washington State, Oregon, Northern California and in Idaho; Dr. Petrie actually mentions finding three little plants of this species in Southern British Columbia. It is an extremely elusive little elf, the ghostly white *Cephalanthera austinae*.

The genus is of Northern European distribution, with *Cephalanthera austinae* the only new world representative. The plants are saprophytic and like others of this persuasion, they have to form a symbiosis with some micorrhizae in order to exist. When conditions are right, you may be fortunate to see the pale glowing tapers of the Phantom Orchid standing on dark carpets of fir needles, exuding a gentle vanilla scent. They bloom for about a month, set and disperse seed and then go to rest again, like Sleeping Beauty, for many years.

Like many terrestrial orchids that find conditions above ground not to their liking, the plants may stay underground, existing and living as the fungi do. You might be walking right over top of their sleeping places – you would not know that you are stepping on the beds of little fairies. It may take a long time before, on a happy day in May, the little ghosts appear again, shining strangely in the twilight of the forest.

Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander

New Culture Sheets

Ross Otto has produced culture sheets for each of *Masdevallia* and *Lycaste* orchids and one on importing orchids into Canada. The sheets are available on the COC website as web pages for fast viewing and also as pdf files for one-page printing.

Altogether there are now sheets for:

- General Orchid Culture: Leaves
- General Orchid Culture: Roots
- Cattleya
- Cymbidium
- Dendrobium
- Importing orchids into Canada
- Lycaste
- Masdevallia
- Miltoniopsis
- Oncidium
- Paphiopedilum
- Phalaenopsis
- Phragmipedium
- Vanda
- Zygopetalum

What's in a name?

Changes to generic names - the reasons why

I understand how annoying it can be when a tag is lost or if a name is misspelled such that we can only guess at what it is. I appreciate the frustration of the enthusiastic hobbyist who brings a lovely blooming 'supermarket' orchid to the show only to learn that it might not be eligible since it lacks a name. Even when there is a label, the hobbyist can only assume that their supermarket orchid is correctly named. It is unlikely that even a *Phalaenopsis* expert could dispute a name unless it is a spurious one. Hybrids are especially difficult to distinguish if their labels get mixed up or lost. What really irritates some hobbyists is the change in generic names just when they thought they had the common ones in hand. In this era of molecular genetics, generic and specific names (epithets) can change with the outcome of a comprehensive analysis. A new name may or may not be accepted by the scientific community but that still leaves the amateur wondering 'just what is in a name?'

There has been an effort on the part of major laboratories around the world to sample genera and species of orchids once thought to be related using more traditional techniques of flower structure. Many of the genera retain their names but some different names must be used to identify those orchids found to be unique or more closely allied to other existing genera. Either a new name is created or an existing name once passed over by earlier taxonomists is employed to identify the orchids. All name changes affecting orchid hybrid registration are reviewed by the International Orchid Registrar. To learn more about current changes and newly registered hybrids, go to:

Some of the most demanding have been studies of the large genera of *Dendrobium*, *Epidendrum*, and *Oncidium* but studies of smaller genera have also turned up interesting relationships. Taxonomists using molecular techniques are careful to conserve names wherever possible rather than creating new ones. In some instances, there has been little choice as in the case of *Zelenkoa onusta*, once called *Oncidium onustum*. Once the generic name has been created, the specific epithet is changed, if necessary, to agree with the generic name. We see this with *Oncidium guianense* which becomes *Tolumnia guianensis*, and with *Milt. schroederiana* and *Milt. warszewiczii*, which have been transferred to *Oncidium* as *Oncidium schroederianum* and *Oncidium fuscatum*, respectively. If a species must be trans-

ferred from one genus to an existing genus, its specific epithet cannot duplicate an existing one. Therefore, when *Miltonia warszewiczii* was transferred to *Oncidium*, the specific epithet *warszewiczii* could not be retained and an alternate was chosen which in this case is *fuscatum*. You can download recent changes affecting the genus *Oncidium* by visiting the Wildcatt site and looking under news.

When there are specific and generic name changes, this also impacts hybrid generic epithets. For example, hybrids registered as having *Oncidium onustum* as a parent, have to be changed. Since *Zelenkoa* is a new generic epithet then intergeneric hybrid generic names must also change. *Howeara Mary Eliza* becomes *Zelenkoara Mary Eliza*. *Colmanara Wildcat* has *Milt. warszewiczii* in its parentage. Since the *Miltonia* has been transferred to *Oncidium*, the intergeneric hybrid becomes more simply, *Odontocidium*. Being aware of possible synonyms is worthwhile for anyone intending to show a plant, make a cross or register a hybrid.

Marilyn H. S. Light



CITES Amendments Approved at COP 13

A report on activities at the recent 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) held in October, 2004, in Thailand can be found at <http://www.cites.ca>. On the left sidebar menu, select Conference of the Parties and then CoP13.

All changes to CITES Appendices come into effect at an international level on January 12, 2005 but in Canada, new regulations will only be amended about April, 2005. Check the CITES website monthly for the most up-to-date information.

Of the many proposals regarding endangered species, four affecting trade in orchids were accepted. There are two down-listings of species from Appendix I to Appendix II. Additionally, a number of hybrids and intergeneric orchid hybrids will be exempted from CITES documentation but only if particular requirements are met. Genera affected by the new guidelines include interspecific and intergeneric hybrids of *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium* (nobile and phalaenopsis types only), *Phalaenopsis*, and *Vanda*. A complete guide to regulations (with illustrations) for CITES exemption is found at: <http://www.cites.org/common/cop/13/E13-P41Annex.pdf>

New CITES amendments

1 - *Cattleya trianaei* has been transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.

2 - *Vanda coerulea* has been transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.

3 - Certain artificially propagated interspecific and intergeneric orchid hybrids are exempted from CITES control. Artificially propagated specimens are not subject to the provisions of the Convention when:

- a) they are traded in flowering state, i.e. with at least one open flower per specimen, with reflexed petals;
- b) they are professionally processed for commercial

retail sale, e.g. labelled with printed labels and packaged with printed packages;

- c) they can be readily recognized as artificially propagated specimens by exhibiting a high degree of cleanliness, undamaged inflorescences, intact root systems and a general absence of damage or injury that could be attributable to plants originating in the wild;
- d) the plants do not exhibit characteristics of wild origin, such as damage by insects or other animals, fungi or algae adhering to leaves, or mechanical damage to inflorescences, roots, leaves or other parts resulting from collection; and
- e) the labels or packages indicate the trade name of the specimen, the country of artificial propagation or, in the case of international trade during the production process, the country where the specimen was labelled and packaged; and the labels or packages show a photograph of the flower, or demonstrate by other means the appropriate use of labels and packages in an easily verifiable way.

4 - Artificially propagated specimens of Orchidaceae hybrids of the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*, are not subject to the provisions of the Convention when:

- a) the specimens are traded in shipments consisting of individual containers (i.e. cartons, boxes, or crates) each containing 20 or more plants of the same hybrid;
- b) the plants within each container that can be readily recognized as artificially propagated specimens, exhibiting a high degree of uniformity and healthiness; and
- c) the shipments are accompanied by documentation, such as an invoice, which clearly states the number of plants of each hybrid.

Marilyn H. S. Light

COMING EVENTS

2005

Feb 5-6: The Southern Ontario Orchid Society, NEW LOCATION: the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

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

Feb 25-27: Orchid Society of Alberta in the Grant MacEwan College, Millwoods Campus, 7319 - 29 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta.

Showchair: Mary Wilke, mjwilke@shaw.ca "<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/macklam/pages/aborchsoc.html>"

March 3-6: Victoria Orchid Society Spring Orchid Show in the Students' Union Building, University of Victoria. Contact: "Ingrid Ostrander" [mail:ifl@telus.net](mailto:ifl@telus.net) 250-652-0753

"<http://victoriaorchidsociety.ca/>"

Mar 11-20: 18th World Orchid Conference in the town centre of Dijon, France "<http://www.woc2005.org/>"

March 18-20: The Manitoba Orchid Society.

"<http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca/default.htm>"

March 19-20: Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd., Burlington. Showchair is Ben Boers, email bboers@cogeco.ca "<http://www.osrbg.ca/>"

March 26-27: London Orchid Society Orchid Show, at the Western Fair Agriplex, London, ON

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

April 2-3: The Orchid Society of Nova Scotia at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, Halifax. Contact: Jean Ikeson 866-798-0514 email: greenhouses@win.eastlink.ca

"<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/OrchidSNS/>"

April 7-10: The Regina Orchid Society annual show and sale at the Core Ritchie Community Centre, 445 14th Avenue, Regina. Contact Charles Eisbrenner, email: reginaorchidsociety@sasktel.net

April 9-10: Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Show, College de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere St., Montreal, Quebec. For information: Andre Poliquin (450)653-9590 e-mail: mor-pol@sympatico.ca "<http://orchidophiles.qc.ca/>"

April 15-17: Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society at Country Club Center, Nanaimo, BC. Contact: Sue Christenson, email: CVIOS@shaw.ca "<http://members.shaw.ca/CVIOS/CVIOS/>"

April 16-17: Kingston Orchid Society at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. For further information email: kos@cogeco.ca "<http://home.cogeco.ca/~kos/index.htm>"

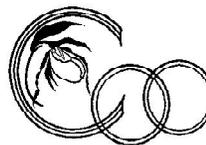
April 22-24: The Ottawa Orchid Society show, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave., Nepean. Contact David Cooper, Show Chairman, at orchidae@netcom.ca.

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

COC Web Site - <http://www.CanadianOrchidCongress.ca/>

This newsletter may be found there.

Please send in your show information - date, location, contact, etc.



news

2001 - 6 Willow Street,
Waterloo ON, N2J 4S3
Phone: (519)885-1888
email: jerry@uwaterloo.ca

Editor: Jerry Bolce

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

Officers of the Canadian Orchid Congress

President	Margaret Blewett 905-687-9205 mblewett37@cogeco.ca
Vice-President	Lorne Heshka 204-663-6850 lheshka@escape.ca
Treasurer	Janette Richardson 306-543-0560 dale.richardson@sasktel.net
Secretary	Terry Kennedy 905-727-3319 ourtropics@ica.net
Education	Mark Elliott 604-943-6979 melliott@mrl.ubc.ca
Conservation	Marilyn Light 819-776-2655 mlight@igs.net
Past President	Ingrid Ostrander 250-652-0753 ifl@telus.net