

Canadian Orchid Congress
Fédération Canadienne des Sociétés Orchidophiles



news

Volume 24.3 – May 2012

Michel Tremblay showing his Educational exhibit featuring 13 plants of Phal. Lowland Juwel on receiving an Award of Quality/AOS.

Photographer Marilyn Light



This display in the London Orchid Society show was put in by the Central Ontario Orchid Society and won the COC trophy for most artistic display.

From the President

Now that spring is finally here, it will be full summer and lawn mowing time before you know it. I hope you enjoyed a marvellous spring show season with lots of new and old plants. Planning for the fall season is well under way and it is not too early to start on the 2013 spring season, especially for those January and February shows.

Here are just a few things to think about over the summer months. Several Ontario orchid societies are having summer events to which they invite members of other orchid societies. This is a further way of making orchid connections. Particulars for these events are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens is hosting the 2012 COC Annual General Meeting this October in Burlington, Ontario in conjunction with their show at the RBG. The details for this event are also in this newsletter. These meetings are important for providing opportunities for face to face contact between orchid enthusiasts from across the country. Please ensure that a delegate from your society plans on attending.

Speaking of future events and event planning, Marlene Young, a member of the Ottawa Orchid Society, is developing a Facebook site that will include the COC and the Toronto and Montreal Judging Centers. She writes:

"Our purpose is to centralize and disseminate information concerning the culture, growing, hybridization, conservation, use and appreciation of orchids.

The ORCHID JOURNAL Facebook site will support special orchid events and orchid shows across Canada. We are a central orchid community bulletin board. Society members are also welcome to contribute to our interactive forum and to our ongoing conversations about orchids."

This can help us all get the word out about orchids and orchid events to the Facebook crowd.

On a personal note I want to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of keeping records of both your plants and your other possessions and their locations. About two weeks ago the rear part of our 2.5 hectare property got hit by an out of control grass fire from a

neighbouring property. This fire consumed our barn and many trees on our place as well as burning out of control over many neighbouring properties. Thanks to the timely intervention of the fire department our house and greenhouse went unscathed and nobody was hurt. However, as I used the barn as a general storage space, I have since had to spend an inordinate amount of my time reconstructing what all burnt up in the fire including valuable garden plants. The lesson is if you have things you value and that you might have to claim on from an insurance make sure you have up to date records.

- Peter Poot



The best display at the Toronto Artistic Orchid Association show by Doug and Terry Kennedy won the AOS show Trophy and an AOS Silver Certificate.

2012 COC Travel Grant

Four societies applied for, and received, the \$200.00 travel grant this year. The Fraser Valley Orchid Society is bringing in three speakers to share in a tour of the four western societies. The Windsor Orchid Society is using the money to rent a bus so that members can go to the SOOS Summerfest in August. The Essex County Orchid Society is bringing in Ray Barkalow of Pennsylvania to speak on Semi-Hydroponics orchid culture, and finally the Saskatchewan Orchid Society is bringing in Alexey Tretyakov from Edmonton to speak to their society.

It's not too early to start planning for the 2013 Travel Grant, especially if your society has never applied before.

Gail Schwarz

SOOS Orchid Fest in August

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society (www.soos.ca) will hold its annual Orchidfest (aka Summerfest) on August 5, 2012, at the Toronto Botanical Garden, Floral Hall. All who are *bona fide* members of an orchid society are welcome to attend. Our guest speaker this year will be renowned Australian orchid expert, Phil Spence (<http://www.orchidproductions.com.au/>). He will be speaking on 2 subjects:

- Lost orchids: this part is about following Friedrich Richard Rudolf Schlechter's (<http://www.orchids.co.in/orchidologists/friedrich-richard-rudolf-schlechter.shtml>) footsteps on his trip to the Torricelli Mountains in the west Sepik Province looking for to replace the many specimens which were lost during the second world war (WW II)
- the Dendrobiums section Latouria and some of the cooler growing hybrids.

The meeting commences at 10:00 AM with AOS judging, which all meeting attendees are invited to watch. We are hoping that Phil will have orchids for sale, but at the date of writing, we are not certain that this can be arranged. There will be a potluck luncheon, starting at 12 noon, so bring your finest cuisine to share with your fellow orchidists. We expect Phil's presentation to commence about 1:00 PM.

LOS June Speaker

The London Orchid Society is pleased to announce that Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids, Vista, California <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/> will be our speaker on Sunday, June 17th, 2012, meeting begins at 2:00 PM. All members of Canadian orchid societies are invited to attend. Fred will be speaking on mini Catts.

You may pre-order plants directly from the Sunset Valley Website; be aware that Fred's CITES only covers Cattleya and Catasetinae only, limit your orders to those groups.

He will have a very limited number of additional plants for sale at the meeting. If there is a specific plant you want, pre-order it to ensure you are not disappointed. It is your responsibility to arrange for pick up in London.

Ordering details, payment options and a list of Catasetinae will be on the LOS' website at <http://los.lon.imag.net/meetings.asp>

Meetings are held at The London Psychiatric Hospital, 850 Highbury Avenue in the Amphitheatre. The meetings begin at 2:00 p.m. but the doors are usually open sometime between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. for setup and socializing.

Sean Moore, Pres LOS

Cuban Workshop

Soroa Orchid Botanical Garden and the University of Pinar del Rio, call for participation between 23 and 25 October at the Eighth International Workshop on Orchids.

Participants will stay at the Hotel Soroa, only 300 meters from the venue, and enjoy, optionally, of visits to the Biosphere Reserve Sierra del Rosario and the Mil Cumbres protected area, where observed species of orchids in the wild natural.

http://www.cubaheadlines.com/2012/04/12/35004/cuban_entities_launched_call_for_international_orchid_workshop.html

American Orchid Society Update

The American Orchid Society held its spring meeting in green, warm, blue-sky Wichita, Kansas from April 24-28, 2012. At this meeting, Californian Sandra Svoboda became the new President of the AOS, Timothy Brooks and Fred Missbach became Vice Presidents and Jean Hollebone of the Ottawa Orchid Society the new secretary. Sandra is probably well known to most of you as editor of the prestigious Orchid Digest which is published four times a year and contains a wealth of articles and wonderful photographs of orchids. Tim Brooks was the recent chair of the AOS exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March which attracted over 274,000 visitors through its gates! Mario Ferrusi of SOOS was re-elected as a trustee for his second two year term and has also agreed to chair the Governance Committee of the AOS which supports the Board of Trustees through the development of appropriate policies and procedures.

The AOS confirmed Terry Kennedy's appointment as Chair of the Toronto Judging Center, January 1, 2012, taking over from Peter Poot who has ably managed the post for the last several years. Eastern societies, please contact Terry with any questions on show dates and judging at ourtropics@gamil.com. Terry confirms that the Toronto Judging Center is proud to announce that the following were approved by the Trustees of the AOS: Gilberto Arrieche, Joyce Medcalf and Gail Schwarz are now accredited judges with the AOS and Andre Couture has been elevated to probationary judge. Congratulations to these four judges, their advancement in the AOS judging system represents a lot of personal hard work and study, lots of travel and are well deserved achievements. We as societies also benefit from their advancement, as each of these individuals has been generous in sharing their knowledge by giving presentations to societies, as well as taking a very active role in judging at our various orchid shows and show tables. Without the AOS judging system, we would not have judged, ribboned shows, so we all benefit from their hard work. We also officially have two new students: Carol Butcher from Rochester and Christelle Kapfer from Montreal. Congratulations to all!!

The fall meeting of the AOS will be held in Portland, Oregon, November 14-18, 2012. Hopefully, some of the western societies will take advantage of the closeness of the American meeting and participate as an AOS meeting is an interesting combination of AOS board and committee meetings, seminars and show.

The AOS has now completed its move to Fairchild Botanic Garden but because construction on the new education centre there has been delayed, the AOS is working in small, temporary quarters and it is estimated this may continue till early summer. While there was some delay in the mailing of Orchids Magazine in March and April, the publication schedule is back on track and the May edition is expected to be mailed at the usual time. As well, there was a temporary slow down in processing awards and memberships but these have too been addressed and are back on schedule. It has been a huge effort by Chief Operating Officer Ron McHatton to keep everything going during the physical move with staff working at home and the issues of reconnecting computers, servers etc. Thanks to him the move was successful and disruption to services minimal.

A few highlights of the meeting: financially the AOS is in the black and moving forward with a focus on attracting new memberships and retention of existing members through increased programming and exciting new services for members. A revised AQ+ is ready for B testing in the next few weeks. A new publication, Orchid Care, debuted in March which focuses on cultural information for beginner and intermediate-experience growers. The Board of Trustees approved grants to the research committee and established a new conservation fund to support conservation and protection of habitat programs. The judging program announced an increase in awards since 2010! The Education Committee is finishing up a module on orchids for children which will be made available for societies to use at their orchid shows. And finally, although we have listed only a few things the AOS is doing, we hope this gives you a flavour of the excitement and spirit of renewal that is pervading the AOS. Do visit the AOS web site at <http://www-aos.org/> for reliable content information on orchids, and do seriously consider joining the AOS if you have not already done so. There are lots of benefits!

*Jean Hollebone and Mario Ferrusi
April 30, 2010*

AOS Award of Quality to Michel Tremblay at OrchidExpo 2012

Some 300 AOS Awards of Quality are recorded, about one-third for *Phalaenopsis*. Only a very few AQ/AOS have been awarded to Canadian hybridizers including Howard Ginsberg in 2007 for *Phal.* Bedford Blushing Beauty, and Mario Ferrusi for his hybrid *Masdevallia* Malcolm Adams in 2008. It is a great honour to both the person who selects the parents to improve a species or to make a hybrid and succeeds. It is similarly a great achievement for the grower who raises a large group of seedlings to flowering size. To obtain the AOS AQ requirement of a minimum of 12 plants blooming at the same time for judging as a group, the grower must be skillful and patient. We can be justly proud to add Michel Tremblay to a select group of Canadian orchid growers who have received a coveted AQ from the AOS, and recognize the effort of Howard Ginsberg who remade the hybrid, *Phal.* Lowland Juwel, that Michel then raised from flask.

Michel Tremblay is an accredited judge of the Montréal AOS Judging Center who specializes in *Phalaenopsis*. In 2007, he acquired two flasks of *Phal.* Lowland Juwel from Howard Ginsberg, raising 60 seedlings to flowering size, then selecting the best to grow on. In 2011, Michel designed an award-winning educational exhibit outlining the steps to remake *Phal.* Lowland Juwel. The hybrid

displays characteristics of all three species in its background, *Phal. equestris*, *schilleriana*, and *stuartiana*. He had bloomed some of the seedlings but getting all to flower at the same time and at the time of a show remained a challenge.

To synchronize blooming in 2012, Michel waited until inflorescences had initiated then adjusted the temperature to be 10°C lower than usual both day and night during the following two months. This adjustment delayed blooming by three to four weeks. All of his orchids were thus flowering simultaneously in time for OrchidExpo 2012. At the March 2012 show of Les Orchidophiles de Montréal, Michel staged an educational exhibit which explained the various steps of hybridization including parental selection, pollination, and raising seedlings to the flowering plant stage but this time he exhibited 13 flowering specimens including the cultivar *Phal.* Lowland Juwel 'Denise' HCC/AOS, as well as the parental species and the primary hybrid, *Phal.* Veitchiana. The grouping was recognized for overall consistent quality, receiving an Award of Quality. Bravo!

- Marilyn Light

Phal Lowland Juwel
'Denise' HCC/AOS

Photographer Michael
MacConaill



PRÉSENTOIR ÉDUCATIF À ORCHIDEXPO 2012 Michel Tremblay

Depuis des années, j'avais en tête de préparer dans un présentoir éducatif particulier dans une grande exposition d'orchidées. L'opportunité s'est réalisée en 2012 lors de l'OrchidExpo présentée par la Société des Orchidophiles de Montréal les 24 et 25 mars derniers à Montréal.

L'idée de base était la suivante: montrer une lignée complète d'un grex de phalaenopsis allant jusqu'aux espèces, avec suffisamment de rejetons pour que le visiteur soit capable de constater visuellement les divergences génétiques transmises par tous les ancêtres. Je voulais aussi que les grands-parents et les parents soient en fleurs en même temps que leurs descendants pour faire toutes les comparaisons possibles.

Pour ce faire, j'ai acquis en 2007 deux flacons du croisement de phalaenopsis Lowland Juwel, lequel croisement avait été réalisé par Howard Ginsberg, hybrideur de Montréal très renommé pour la qualité de ses croisements, notamment de phalaenopsis. J'avais donc environ 60 plantules que j'ai cultivées jusqu'à leur floraison. J'ai sélectionné les meilleurs sujets.

Les parents du croisement Lowland Juwel sont Phalaenopsis Veitchiana et *Phal. stuartiana*.

Et les parents du Phalaenopsis Veitchiana, les *phalaenopsis equestris* et *schilleriana*. Or, toutes ces dernières plantes se retrouvaient également dans ma collection d'orchidées, depuis 9-10 ans déjà. Par conséquent, tous les éléments étaient réunis.

Le défi consistait maintenant à faire fleurir toutes ces orchidées en même temps et à une date donnée, soit pour l'Orchidexpo. En 2010 et en 2011, j'ai fait des tentatives. J'ai échoué les deux fois parce que, dans mes conditions de culture, les plantes commençaient à fleurir en décembre mais ne se rendaient pas à Orchidexpo, les fleurs se fanant avant. Cette année, après que les hampes florales de toutes les plantes sélectionnées eurent été initiées, j'ai modifié la température de ma chambre de culture pendant deux mois pour la maintenir à 10°C inférieure à la température normale de culture, ceci autant le jour que la nuit. Cela a eu pour effet de décaler la floraison de trois à quatre semaines. Toutes les plantes se sont retrouvées alors simultanément en fleurs juste à temps pour l'OrchidExpo 2012.

Dès lors, le visiteur pouvait observer dans le présentoir 13 plantes du croisement Lowland Juwel, les parents de ces dernières, soient *Phal. Veitchiana* et *Phal. stuartiana* et finalement les grands-parents, soient les *Phal. equestris* et *schilleriana*. La lignée était complète. Cela permettait une étude génétique en faisant les comparaisons appropriées en remontant jusqu'aux espèces. Mon objectif était atteint en terme de présentoir éducatif.

Et pour couronner le tout, les juges de la Société américaine des orchidées (AOS) ont décerné un prix de qualité (AQ/AOS) pour le croisement Lowland Juwel. Ce prix de l'AOS est attribué à un croisement qui démontre des qualités supérieures, dont au moins 12 plantes sont exposées en même temps et dont au moins un des sujets a reçu un prix de qualité (AM ou HCC), ce qui était le cas puisque le Phalaenopsis Lowland Juwel 'Denise' s'était vu décerné antérieurement un HCC en 2011.

Educational exhibit featuring 13 plants of *Phal. Lowland Juwel* raised by Michel Tremblay who received an Award of Quality/AOS.

Photographer Michael MacConaill



ROYAL BOTANICAL
GARDENS

ORCHID SOCIETY

31st ANNUAL
ORCHID SHOW & SALE

CANADIAN ORCHID
CONGRESS
ART SHOW & SPEAKERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012
12 PM - 5 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2012
10 AM - 5 PM

PHOTOGRAPHERS SUNDAY
8 AM - 10 AM

Royal Botanical Gardens
680 Plains Road West
Burlington, ON

Admission free
with admission to RBG



Visit our website for
more information
www.osrbg.ca

The COC @ RBG TAOA Show Award

This year's Canadian Orchid Congress Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Ontario in conjunction with their 31st annual orchid show. In addition to the AGM on Sunday morning, there will be international and local speakers and an arts show to be enjoyed both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday evening there will be a wonderful celebration dinner with an auction to raise funds for both the COC and the host society. Please look for plants or orchid-related treasures that could be donated to this worthy cause.

The show will be held on October 27th and 28th, 2012 in the lovely surroundings of the Royal Botanical Gardens. Please check the websites below or contact Lynda Vuurman at lyndamv1@yahoo.ca for more information.

The Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens is at www.osrbg.ca

The Royal Botanical Gardens is at
www.rbg.ca

The best Society display at the TAOA show won by The Southern Ontario Orchid Society put in by Don Wyatt also won the COC trophy for most artistic display.



CVIOS wins COC Display Award

The Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society (CVIOS), centered in Nanaimo, BC. wins the COC medal for the Best Display by a visiting society at the VOS show. The exhibit was built of black-draped tables arranged in a stretched-out zigzag line, with interesting structures in black raised high to display various mounted and larger plants of good quality. The highlight was a grouping of several Coelogyne species, with the reserve champion, a big *Coel. hololeuca* cascading in full glory.



Orchids and the Power to Heal

In the Fall of last year, I had been asked to teach a course for ElderCollege (taught to those over 55) on how to grow orchids at home. I agreed to the offer and six eager participants faithfully appeared every Tuesday morning at the Village of Aspen Lake to learn more about our favourite flower, the orchid. One of the projects we undertook was to repot an orchid – either a Cattleya or a Phalaenopsis. One participant, who I'll identify as Carol, chose to repot a Cattleya. Carol had lost her husband almost two years prior and, I think, the class was one step in her healing. The plants we had to repot had been acquired from Crystal Star with the expressed request that they be in dire need of repotting. Eric and Ellen Lee of Crystal Star Orchids obliged. I advised Carol that her plant was being put through traumatic changes in the repotting process and not to expect it to recover right away and be willing to wait a year or so before there may be signs of blooms.



At the end of the course, one of the Directors at the Village asked if I would put on a repotting workshop for some of the residents at the Village in February, 2012. I was happy to accept the invitation but would need some help so I asked Carol and another participant from the ElderCollege course. On Feb 4, 2012 we got together and spent about two hours working with the residents to repot their own Phalaenopsis. The resident's excitement and their admiration of the orchid flowers was evident on their faces and it was clear that this had been a highlight of their day. When all was done, Carol told me that the week prior would have marked her 40th wedding anniversary and that, on that day, her husband sent her flowers – miraculously the Cattleya she had repotted months before, and nurtured since, had presented her with two fragrant, splash petal, lavender blooms on the

morning of their anniversary. I do not question the therapeutic and healing powers of orchids, I saw it that day.



- Ed Cott (Windsor Orchid Society)

At Home with Orchids

2012 Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale,
October 19 to 21.

Your senses will be captivated by the lovely displays and shop to your heart's content at the orchid market! Local and international vendors will be on site to answer questions and sell a diverse selection of orchids and exotic plants. We are pleased to be partnered with the Langley Hospice - nurturing our community and our plants.

COC award at Victoria BC Show

The winner of the COC trophy, this year awarded to the individual with the most attractive display were Patrick and Kathy VanAdrichem of Sidney, BC.

The medium sized display was glowing with Phalaenopsis plants in every colour combination, most in the red-orange range, with a few other genera besides, lovingly arranged on and around a mirrored antique vanity with two chairs - all well lit by two large overhead lamps.

The photographer is Edward C Higham.



VOS wins COC Medal

This is Ed Higham's photo of the COC winning display at the Vancouver show - won by the Vancouver Orchid Society: A very large display dominated by a vertical wooden canoe filled with orchids and a multitude of diverse and very healthy plants artistically arranged on a moss-filled table.



COC Medal winning display at Nanaimo Show

At the Nanaimo, BC, Canada, orchid show from April 2012, the COC show medal was awarded to an exhibit created by Bryan Emery of Victoria, BC. (*right*)

A four-by-four foot table, draped in cloth, displayed a variety of orchids, many mounted on a multi-branched tree trunk in moss-covered containers, enhanced by diverse foliage plants. Several orchids had been nominated and two received AOS awards, indicating the high quality of material.

Photographer: Ed Higham



COMING EVENTS

2012

June 1-2: Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival "<http://www.orchidfest.ca/>"

June 17: The London Orchid Society is pleased to announce that Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids, Vista, California

<http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/> will be our speaker on Sunday, June 17th, 2012, meeting begins at 2:00 PM. All members of Canadian orchid societies are invited to attend. Fred will be speaking on mini Catts.

June 23-24: The Foothills Orchid Society, invites you to The Calgary Orchid Show and Sale at Triwood Community Center, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW, Calgary, AB "<http://members.shaw.ca/foothillsorchidsociety/>"

Sunday Aug 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 pot luck lunch at noon, and there are two talks starting at 1 pm. All Orchidists Welcome. "<http://www.soos.ca/>"

Oct 27-28: Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd., Burlington. The OSRGB will be hosting the COC AGM - stay tuned for details. <http://www.osrgb.ca/>

Sept 29-30: The Central Ontario Orchid Society, Cambridge Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge. "<http://www.coos.ca/>"

Oct 13-14: Eastern Canada Orchid Society at the Hotel Espresso and Conference Center, 1005 rue Guy, in Downtown Montreal. Phone 514-684-3904 "<http://www.ecosorchids.ca/>"

Oct 19-21: Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Plant Sale will be held at the George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd Avenue, Langley, BC "<http://www.fraservalleyorchidsociety.ca/>"

Nov 10: The Essex County Orchid Society will be holding their third Orchid Show and Sale. The one day event will take place at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, 1550 Road 3 E. Ruthven, ON. For more information, please email: Juliette St. Pierre at canadel@cogeco.ca "<http://www.essexcountyorchidsociety.webs.com/>"

International Shows

September 11 – 16, 2012: 19th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show 'Wild about Orchids' Burswood Convention Centre, Bolton Ave, Burswood, Perth, Western Australia

http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

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COnews

The purpose of COnews 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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