



Minutes

29th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Orchid Congress

Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 12 noon EDT

Online: GoToMeeting

**On-site: Orchid Resource Centre, Orchid Species Preservation Foundation,
4457 99st, Edmonton, AB T6E 5B6***

Present: Calvin Wong* (President), Marlene Young (1st Vice President), Jan Johns (Treasurer), Inge Poot (Secretary), Peter Poot (Past President)

All participants joined the meeting online with the exception of those noted with (*) who attended on-site.

Member Society Attendees:

Central Ontario Orchid Society (Jerry Bolce)
Eastern Canada Orchid Society (Scott de Vito/ Rosanne L'Ecyer)
Foothills Orchid Society (Marguerite Salisbury)
London Orchid Society (Brenda Aartis)
Manitoba Orchid Society (Rick Askins)
Orchid Society of Alberta (Darrell Albert)
Orchid Society of Nova Scotia (Gail Schwarz)
Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens (Chris Varady)
Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (Dave Nixon)*
Ottawa Orchid Society/Toronto Judging Centre (Joyce Medcalf)
Pacific Northwest Judging Centre (Abu Saleh)*
Regina Orchid Society (Denise Nelson)
Richmond Orchid Club (Elisabeth Markus)
Southern Ontario Orchid Society (Peter Poot)
Victoria Orchid Society (John Taylor)
Windsor Orchid Society (Adele Beitler)

Other Attendees:

Alison Verkade
Laurens Verkade
Tom Shields

Absent:

Central Vancouver Orchid Society
Essex County Orchid Society (Juliette St Pierre)
Fraser Valley Orchid Society

Les Orchidophiles de Quebec
Niagara Region Orchid Society
North Okanagan Orchid Society
Prince Edward Island Orchid Club
Saskatchewan Orchid Society (Tom Kondra)
South Okanagan Orchid Society
Toronto Artistic Orchid Association

1. Call to Order

The President welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

As above

3. Declaration of Notice and Quorum

With 22 participants present and accounted for, a quorum was declared.

4. Adoption of the minutes of the 29th Annual AGM June 11, 2016

MOTION to adopt the minutes as presented

Abu Saleh

Seconded: Rosanne L'Ecyer

Carried

5. Reports:

a. President – Calvin Wong

This is my third and last report as the President of the Canadian Orchid Congress. It is hard to believe 3 years have passed since I took on the role as President. A lot has been achieved in the last several years, and I would like to anchor my report based on the 3 visions I shared with all of you when I took on this challenging yet rewarding role in 2014. They are:

- enhance membership engagements,
- leveraging technologies, and
- stabilize our governance structure.

These 3 visions have remained our priorities in the 3 years during my time as President, and I will report various activities that address each of them.

Enhanced membership engagements

In order for the COC to remain relevant and be value added to our membership, we must remain current and provide exceptional support to our member societies. In order to address the difficulties in attracting world class speakers due to geographic locations and/or financial limitations, the COC began to produce and make available various webinars to our member societies. To date, 6 webinars have been produced and we received many positive reports that these webinars are excellent supplemental presentations that have been used in various forms, such as monthly meetings, culture classes, shows, and even as last minute substitutions for speakers who have cancelled their visit. Societies who are smaller in size or outside of the urban centres reported that webinars also supported them in the attracting new members. The COC will continue its efforts in expanding its line-up of the webinar education series, especially those subjects that are more advanced.

With that in mind, we have also been working with the web consultant to create a “members’ only” section in our modernized COC web- site. The “members’ only” section will house all the advanced information including the advanced level webinars, various grants available for member societies, and mentorship information for youth science. COC reps and societies’ executives can use the information in this section in support of their society’s business. We are also finalizing a “what’s new” section on the website, so that newly added information can be easily referenced from a prominent area on our home page.

2016 is also the first year that we conducted minor adjustments to our group insurance rates with the objective to enhance fairness of this program. Essentially, the COC revised the insurance costs and broke it into 2 tiers - one rate for member societies who do not hold a show and a second rate for those who do hold a show.

The COC also conducted an in depth membership analysis based various metrics, one of them being information gathered from the membership renewals from the last several years. The results were shared with the member societies, and it is encouraging to see that overall memberships in societies are trending upward in Canada.

Recently, in order to deepen our relationship with the COC reps, we held several “coffee chats” sessions over GoToMeeting with success, Marlene Young, 1st Vice President, will provide further details on this on her report shortly.

The Canada Wide Science Fair, Youth Science Canada program is one of our proudest achievements in 2016. It offers our member societies a unique opportunity to not only support orchid related education and research in their local area, but is also an excellent education outreach and succession planning opportunity. Jan Johns, Treasurer, will give a presentation on the Canada Wide Science Fair project during today’s AGM and I encourage all of you to take note.

Leveraging Technology:

Moving on to leveraging technologies, there has been a complete overhaul and modernization of the COC website. This was a multi-year project and it is approaching its final phase. I talked about the members’ only section as well as our ongoing efforts in producing high quality webinars as part of our education series. The website modernization product project was not a small undertaking and I am very happy to see our new website shaping up nicely. We have been listening to members’ feedback and continue to refine our site to enhance users’ experiences. Further, the COC Board of Directors and Executive Team also have been using the GoToMeeting technology to conduct Congress business in a very effective manner. This is the very same technology that enables us to conduct our AGM today which also has the added benefit of minimizing the cost of travel to an in-person meeting as well as not adding to our carbon footprint.

2016 was the first year that we trialed bimonthly email “Advisories” instead of a full blown newsletter. This decision is in line with the continual evolution of communication style where users are more inclined to actively seek out information these days instead of waiting for information to be passively passed on to them. Users go to the web to look for just one item of information instead of combing through newsletters to see what is relevant to them. This year also marks our very first year of online membership renewal. I have to admit the process needs to be refined a bit, however, we are definitely moving to the right direction in automating our membership renewal process which traditionally has been a very manually intensive exercise.

Last on this item is that the COC continues to have a very robust social media presence, especially on Facebook, with an astounding number of global followers. Marlene Young, as the administrator of Orchid Journal (OJ) Facebook page, will provide further details on OJ in her report.

Stabilizing governance structure

Last but not least, a lot of effort has been put into stabilizing our governance structure both at the Board of Director and the Executive Team level. The ongoing recruitment and talent search has been an exhaustive effort. We have a broad and important mandate that requires many brains and hands to achieve, however, the uptake has been quite low. The added challenge for us is also to respect the geographic representation in our large country whenever possible. I sincerely hope that more members will step forward and volunteer for our important cause.

We have reintroduced the role of the Membership Liaison Officer (MLO). The vision is that the MLO will act as the touch point person between the COC reps from member societies and the COC teams. I am happy to report that the MLO role will continue and the appointment announcement will follow later at today's AGM.

Based on evolving business needs and processes as well as the availability of manpower or lack thereof, the Board made some strategic re-alignments of positions and responsibilities. For example, the role of Group Insurance Program Coordinator was absorbed into the Treasurer's responsibilities, the newsletter editor role was phased out, and the Webmaster role is currently absorbed into the Board of Directors.

I encourage the new Board of Directors to continue to explore the concept of modularizing roles and responsibilities of key executive positions, so that we break them into smaller tasks and share them amongst a team of volunteers instead of overloading one person.

This essentially concludes my report. I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow COC Board of Directors, the Executive Team, COC Reps and the Membership at large for supporting me in this tremendous journey and allowing me to be your fierce leader the past 3 years.

Without your collective support and trust, the COC would not be where we are today. I will remain as an active contributing member as the Past President on the Board of Directors. I commit to continue to carry some of the important portfolios such as the web modernization project, and will support the incoming president to ensure a seamless transition working to ensure that the COC continues to be successful.

MOTION to accept the President's report

Tom Shields
Seconded: Adele Beitler
Carried

b. First Vice President – Marlene Young

Orchid Journal:

On social media, Marlene Young is the creator, owner and administrator of the Facebook (FB) page named Orchid Journal (OJ). It is described this way:

About

We are a Canadian Orchid community Facebook page for hobbyists, societies, orchid news and Canadian Orchid Congress (COC) updates.

Company Overview

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

It is free exposure to a potentially large and international audience.

FB provides feedback on viewers of OJ. We are able to garner the following detail:

- Post reach: 3,000 to 4,000 persons per week
- Insights: Largest number of viewers (fans) are from Brazil (1,999) followed by U.S.A. (1,491), then Myanmar (585) with Canada placing 4th at 479 for the period reviewed with many other countries also listed.
- 67% are women; 33% are men.
- Fans (male and female) are across a broad range: 5% in the age range of 28 – 24 years with 12% in the age range of 65+ years. The range between 35 – 64 years accounts for 65%.
- The OJ has the largest engagement in North America, larger than the AOS.

As the number of fans increase (now over 13,000), it is difficult to monitor orchid show information, hence the COC's event calendar on the website is the source of show information posted on OJ. For example, see the slide for the Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale for 2017 which had 1,300 viewers. This is a benefit for societies who post their show information on the COC website.

Community recognition – special thanks for the recognition by the AOS on the work of OJ as a teaching tool, to Fred Clarke for permission to use his website material (and for naming a Catasetum after Marlene Young in honour of her work promoting Catasetum) and to Bernie Butts and Chuck Lefaive for their work on the Catasetum group site in Canada.

See the presentation slide on *Orchid Journal's Role vis a vis Canadian Orchid Congress*, Appendix A

First Vice President Report:

Smithsonian/NAOCC partnership

- COC partnered with NAOCC presentations @ IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) supporting the 'garden concept' of conservation i.e. focus on your own backyard species
- Smithsonian webinars highest traffic webinar
- Orchid-gami cutout links on COC members only website. Instructions for printing and fun uses while educating public on species
- Native species Gallery highlights western species and the work of Canadian Ben Rostron
- Future possibilities may include more galleries highlighting the works of other Canadian photographers on endangered species in Canada
- COC runs special NAOCC social media programs on species including the series "25 days of orchid-gami" in December – emphasis on species in Canada
- NAOCC requests special 'results analysis' for series on social media (OJ) platform – completed Jan 2017

Grant Application Results

- Prepared extensive and exhaustive application grant and submitted to FORC (Foundation for Orchid Research & Conservation)
 - Requested \$30,000 to support 10yr grant program for senior students in Canada focusing on the study of orchid species and conservation
 - Grant denied with reason: project does not support 'ongoing research'
- Note: FORC is a foundation that was formed with the proceeds (\$200,000) of the last successful WOC (World Orchid Congress) in Vancouver several years ago

COC logo updated for high definition/resolution

- Logo required for CWSF, Smithsonian and other partnership events/websites/webinars

On line guest speakers list

- Jennifer Pell (Vancouver OS) and Alison Verkade (ECOS) in collaboration with Gail Schwarz have developed a new format for guest speakers submissions and now will include special handling and listings for high profile International guests
- Objective is to provide more choices, information and accessibility to all orchid societies including the ones with smaller memberships to engage speakers and even the international speakers across the country.

“Ask me anything” coffee breaks

- Round table discussions with invitations to a good portion of societies. Difficulties scheduling because of show season and availability but about 90% contacted
- Very poor response rate
- Worth doing again? Most definitely given the outstanding results with the few that attended

Tips included

- >How small societies can organize a successful & profitable speaker's day event
 - >How to get a library meeting room for monthly meetings for \$0
 - >How to establish social media relationships in your community all year round
 - >Proven methods for getting new members
- the lists goes on and on . . .

The discussion points were varied. More “coffee breaks” will be scheduled. It also served as a great training platform for our new membership liaison.

Members only sections on website

Developed listing of available grants pertaining to conservation/orchids/research

Educational webinars organized, recorded, YouTube parameters researched, special links provided.

Special Note: Handouts, interactive forms & facilitator notes provided by **Jan Johns**

Mentoring & Resources for Youth Science program

Developed extensive support contact listings as well as recognized research facilities, botanical gardens, universities, labs that have partnered to support COC and the students with their science projects under the CWSF program.

Provided links to research sites and published abstracts for hobbyists as well as science students

Associate member access

All mentoring support facilities such as mentoring universities, labs, botanical gardens will have access to members only section. This will help to establish a network of facilities in Canada that focus on orchids!

Webinars

- ✓ Organized translation and recording of French language version of the popular re-potting webinar.
- ✓ Heiko Heinrich, PhD, has agreed to a special pollination series for advanced hobbyists and science students that will begin recording in April/May of this year. Heiko is a guest speaker at the 2017 WOC and past curator of the Swiss Orchid Foundation
- ✓ Calvin Wong will be doing two webinars on Neos and Cyps
- ✓ Marlene Young will present on polyploidy
- ✓ Ever popular Jay Norris will be doing a webinar on terrariums

Note: recording and webinars are based on this presenter's time and workload as well as the volunteers that put these together. As such this will always be a 'work in progress'

Canada Wide Science Fair & Youth Science

A first for orchid hobbyists in North America, COC sponsors a national grant that provides access to regional CWSF offices whether the societies contributed to funding or not. Available to all!!

A very special thank you to the societies* and individuals that stepped up to allow us to move forward this year with the program

Platinum Plus Sponsor: Southern Ontario Orchid Society

Gold Sponsor: Vancouver Orchid Society

Silver Sponsor: Foothills OS

Individual contributors: Jean Hollebhone, Marlene Young

*Windsor Orchid Society will hold special fundraiser in the Spring

More contributions have been trickling in and Jan Johns can update you on this and more on the CWSF program

Special contributors throughout the year

- Our COC team working shorthanded throughout the year with outstanding results
- A very special thank you to Calvin Wong for his untiring support, work & patience
- A special shout out to Jay Norris for his willingness to share and Terry Kennedy for her valuable input and support in so many areas
- A note of thanks to the L'Orchidophiles Society (France) for the use of their judging webinars
- A special thank you to a number of the member societies for their support and willingness to share
- And last, but not least, a very special thank you and a huge HUG to Peter and Inge Poot for the many years of work and contributions to the orchid hobby and in particular to the COC

MOTION to accept the report of the First Vice President

Peter Poot, Past President

Seconded: Darrell Albert

Carried

c. Treasurer – Jan Johns

Preamble: Thank you to Allen Scantland for auditing our Financial Statements. A letter of audit will be supplied to the membership at a later date.

CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2016

Statement of Changes in Financial Position	Operating Fund	Reserve Fund	Capital Asset Fund	2016
Fund Balance – Beginning of year	\$ 7,323	\$ 15,567		\$ 22,890
Excess Revenue over expenses for the year	-\$ 5,483			-\$ 5,483
less depreciation & loss on sale of assets				\$ 0
Income Interest & Accruals Adjustment	-\$ 112	\$ 259		\$ 147
Investment in Capital Assets				\$ 0
Interfund transfers	\$ 3,111	-\$ 3,111		
Fund Balance at the end of the Year	\$ 4,838	\$ 12,716	\$ 0.00	\$17,554

Note:

- 1) GIC Matured and transferred to operating funds
- 2) Adjusted Operating Funds by \$104.12 of interest income earned but not received, and the \$8.06 reported as revenue and as transferred funds
- 3) Adjusted Reserve Funds by \$259.16 to reflect realized gain and reinvestment

CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS

Statement of Financial Position as at Dec 31, 2016

Assets	Operating Funds	Restricted Assets	2016
Current Assets			
Cash - Bank	\$ 8,752		\$ 8,752
Cash - PayPal	\$ 477		\$ 477
Accounts Receivable			\$ 0
Prepaid Expenses			\$ 0
			\$ 0
Short Term Investments		\$ 12,480	\$ 12,480
Accrued Interest		\$ 235	\$ 235
Total current assets	\$ 9,229	\$ 12,715	\$ 21,945
Fixed (Long-Term) Assets			
Long Term Investments			\$ 0
Capital Assets			\$ 0
Total fixed assets	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Assets	\$ 9,229	\$ 12,715	\$ 21,945
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 805		\$ 805
PrePaid 2017 Membership Dues	\$ 3,587		\$ 3,587
Amounts due to Reserve Fund			\$ 0
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,391	\$ 0	\$ 4,391
Net Assets			
Unrestricted Capital Assets	\$ 4,838		\$ 4,838
Restricted Assets			\$ 0
		\$ 12,716	\$ 12,716
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,838	\$ 12,716	\$ 17,554
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 9,229	\$ 12,716	\$ 21,945

CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS**Statement of Activities**

For the Years Ending [Dec 31, 2016 and Dec 31, 2015]

Revenue	2016	2015
Members' Dues	\$ 1,869	\$ 1,962
Insurance Fees	\$ 2,489	\$ 2,877
Interest Earned	\$ 112	\$ 285
Event Auction		\$ 629
Donation		\$ 525
Other Revenue	\$ 125	\$ 310
Adjustments		
Total Revenues	\$ 4,595	\$ 6,588
Insurance	\$2,618	\$2,596
Travel Subsidy	\$1,200	\$800
Website	\$4,899	\$209
Webinar Software	\$948	
Orchidwiz		\$363
Audit Fees	\$100	
Annual Meeting		\$225
Postage	\$10	
Bank	\$29	\$89
Other expense	\$274	\$160
Adjustments		
Total Expenses	\$10,078	\$4,442
Income from Continuing Operations	(\$5,483)	\$2,146

NOTES:

- 1) Other Revenue is from refund of travel subsidy
- 2) Accrued Interest of \$104.12 from GIC is reported as income
- 3) Membership dues include late fees

- Our asset position has been decreased by \$5,483 from an excess of expenditures over revenues in 2016.
- We cashed the Guaranteed Investment Certificate of \$3,102.56 in December 2016 which had been re-invested on April 20, 2016 at 0.4%.
- The remaining Guaranteed Investment Certificate for \$12,480.10 bears interest of 1.05% and becomes due March 20, 2017.

Notes

- Revenue: Membership dues remained similar to 2015. The apparent decrease is due to fewer late fees applied in 2016.
- The Other Revenue is a repayment on the Travel Subsidies Program adjusting our Travel Subsidies Grants to \$1075, rather than the \$1200 reported.
- The Other Expenses were due to copying costs, presenting and piloting our Educational Webinar series at the Ottawa Orchid Society Show in April 2016.

Major Highlight

- As was outlined in the Operational Plan Highlights of 2016/2017 at last year's AGM, the plan was to revise and upgrade the website and purchase GoToMeeting Software. This has been accomplished and is reflected in the Website and Webinar Software Expense which together cost \$5,847 and with the increase in Educational Travel Subsidy and lack of revenue other than

membership fees (insurance being essentially revenue neutral) explain the operating deficit of \$5,483 this year.

Looking to the Future

- There is a continuing operational cost for the webinar software and website maintenance which going forward will have to be addressed by an increase in revenue.
- Some of our societies experienced an increase in the costs of insurance for 2017, while many others experienced a decrease as these costs were redistributed more equitably this year. We have been notified that our Insurance Agent, Allsport Insurance Marketing Ltd. has been purchased by Markel Canada Ltd. as of March 31, 2017. We have had excellent service from Allsport. We hope this will continue and that fees for 2018 will be similar to those of 2017

Motion that the audited Financial Statements for 2016 be accepted by the membership.

Denise Nelson

Seconded: Dave Nixon

Carried

Allen Scantland has offered to update our financial recording processes to Quick Books. This might increase the cost of preparing statements and the audit in the future.

Question and discussion: how much of a cost is anticipated? Approximately \$400. COC is guided by the operating principle adopted last year as policy to limit expenditures to \$500 unless membership approval is given. What is the cost for? Acquisition of software and cost of audit. Are there sources of software free to not-for-profits? Yes, such as TechSoup. Are there workarounds? Yes, use of excel to record information. Consideration should be made to proceeding with lowest cost option compared to doing nothing. Volunteer time and effort needs to be considered.

Motion that we ask Allen Scantland to continue as auditor for the 2017 year and beyond.

Peter Poot

Seconded: Dave Nixon

Carried

d. Travel Grants – Gail Schwarz

We are now accepting applications for the 2017 Travel Grant. The deadline for submitting applications is June 1, 2017. Preference will be given to societies that have never applied before.

We can accept only five applications for up to \$200.00 each. Each society must match the \$200.00 from the COC. In order to receive \$200.00, your total expenses must be at least \$400.00.

The grant money is to be used for travel and honorariums only, not for accommodations, food, parking, clothing, etc. The requirements for the grant and the application form are on the COC website.

Motion to accept the Travel Grant report as presented

Inge Poot

Seconded by: Dave Nixon

Carried

e. Conservation – Tom Shields

There have been several conservation "thrusts" over the last year, with the following three in particular being notable to date.

1. A very extensive preliminary list of Canadian Environmental/Conservation Organizations/Authorities/Alliances has been developed for inclusion in the near future under the Conservation sidebar on the COC website. As some of these organizations are pan-Canadian and others strictly local or provincial/territorial in scope, they are currently organized alphabetically rather than by jurisdiction. Jurisdictional information can certainly be added. The rationale behind including such a list, which will be revised and updated from time to time, is to encourage local societies to pursue contact and mutually beneficial liaisons with organizations in their vicinity that are interested in native orchid conservation. The list should also prove valuable for science students researching our native orchids as part of the Canada Wide Science Program COC Special Award (see 3, below).
2. A series of at least three and possibly more orchid-conservation-themed articles are also being developed for the website Conservation sidebar. The objective of the articles is to a) impress upon member societies the critical need for orchid conservation, not only in the rest of the world but also here in Canada as well, and b) acknowledge that they owe it to the orchids in their care and to future generations to play an important role in the same, and c) encourage them to form conservation groups or committees that will actively pursue native and worldwide orchid appreciation, habitat preservation, and public education about this precious and precarious heritage. These objectives can be pursued either singly by larger societies or by smaller ones in partnership with neighbouring societies and perhaps local environmental authorities, organizations, etc.

The first of these articles, titled "We Hold Orchids in Trust", will be posted on the website as soon as I finalize the photos that will accompany it. The second, titled "Orchids In Your Backyard", is focussed on our native Canadian orchids and will follow about a month after the first to roughly coincide with the start of our native orchid season in Canada. The third is tentatively titled "Championing the Cause" and will center on the many benefits, social included, of building and maintaining a conservation mandate and group.

3. The COC, primarily through the efforts of Marlene Young and aided by a generous grants and support from several member societies and individuals, has successfully been able to offer a senior science student whose research into orchid biology and/or conservation, with priority being given to research on Canadian orchids, is considered best by the Fair's judges. It is hoped that the COC will be able to make the Award available on a continuing basis, and that it will encourage more students to pursue research into Canadian orchids in particular and to help bring science back into the orchid community, the recent practising lack of which famed botanist Dr. Paul Catling has noted. It will undoubtedly also help make more of our youth keenly interested in orchids and their habitats and aware of their need of protection. Having young people on side is ever vital to the ongoing cause.

6. New Business

a. Canada Wide Science Fair Project – Jan Johns

See Appendix 2 at the end of this document

Calvin Wong explained that on renewal of membership this year, members' societies were given access by log in credentials and direction to the Members' Only section of the website. This is the location of information on mentoring of and resources for youth science.

Motion to accept the presentation on CWSF

Tom Shields
Seconded by: Peter Poot
Carried

b. Members' Only section on COC website – Calvin Wong

More on the Members' Only section – here is what members will find and here is where a society's business can be conducted:

- Members' Benefits
 - Orchid Show Insurance
 - Educational Series (advanced)
 - Grants for Orchid Conservation and Research
 - Mentoring and Resources for Youth Science
- Account details
- Billing and Membership
- Invoices

c. Role of COC Reps – Calvin Wong

The role of the COC Rep is presented on the website under the COC Membership tab. It summarizes the relationship between the member societies and the COC as bridged by the COC Rep. A review is encouraged. www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/cocrep

d. Other new business

None presented.

7.COC Certificate Presentations

COC Certificates of Recognition were presented to:

- Dr. Paul Catling, Ph.D. one of Canada's most distinguished plant taxonomists and entomologists. He is curator of the Agriculture Canada's herbarium, Canada's largest plant collection. Dr. Gatling is also President of the Canadian Botanical Association. He is recognized for his expert advice and support in advancing orchid conservation efforts in Canada.
- Peter Poot, Past President of the COC. Peter has been involved with the organization since the 1980s and has been a builder of the COC. He served as President from 2008 to 2014.
- Inge Poot, while a board member for 3 three has also been a newsletter contributor and editor. Inge has provided support in various other capacities over the years.

8. Election of Officers – Peter Poot, Past President

The following slate of nominations were presented:

For President: Marlene Young

For 1st Vice President: Jan Johns

For 2nd Vice President: Alison Verkade

For Treasurer: as there was no previous nomination, Jan Johns agreed to act as Interim Treasurer

For Secretary: no previous nomination

Peter Poot called 3 times for nominations. None were forthcoming. Hence the Board will deal with the two outstanding appointments according to the bylaws.

The named positions of President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President were acclaimed.

Marlene Young, Incoming President, made announcements of appointments:

- Chris Varady (OSRBG) as Membership Liaison Officer
- Webmaster/tech advisor – position is open; currently maintenance duties are shared.

9. Other Business and Roundtable

- Calvin Wong called for volunteer support for various tasks as well as for society donations to ensure success of various initiatives.
- Marlene Young strongly urge participation of COC reps in initiatives such as “Coffee Break” discussion forum and online auctions. If societies choose to host an online auction, it is encouraged that a portion of the proceeds be dedicated to the COC. Or should support be sought outside of member societies?

Peter Poot commented that when the COC was formed it was with the intent to be a place where societies could talk to one another and share ideas and information. He said that an online auction is centralized. It would be preferable that societies hold auctions locally, where they have volunteer support, and that portions of the proceeds be dedicated to the COC. He urged a realistic expectation of volunteers.

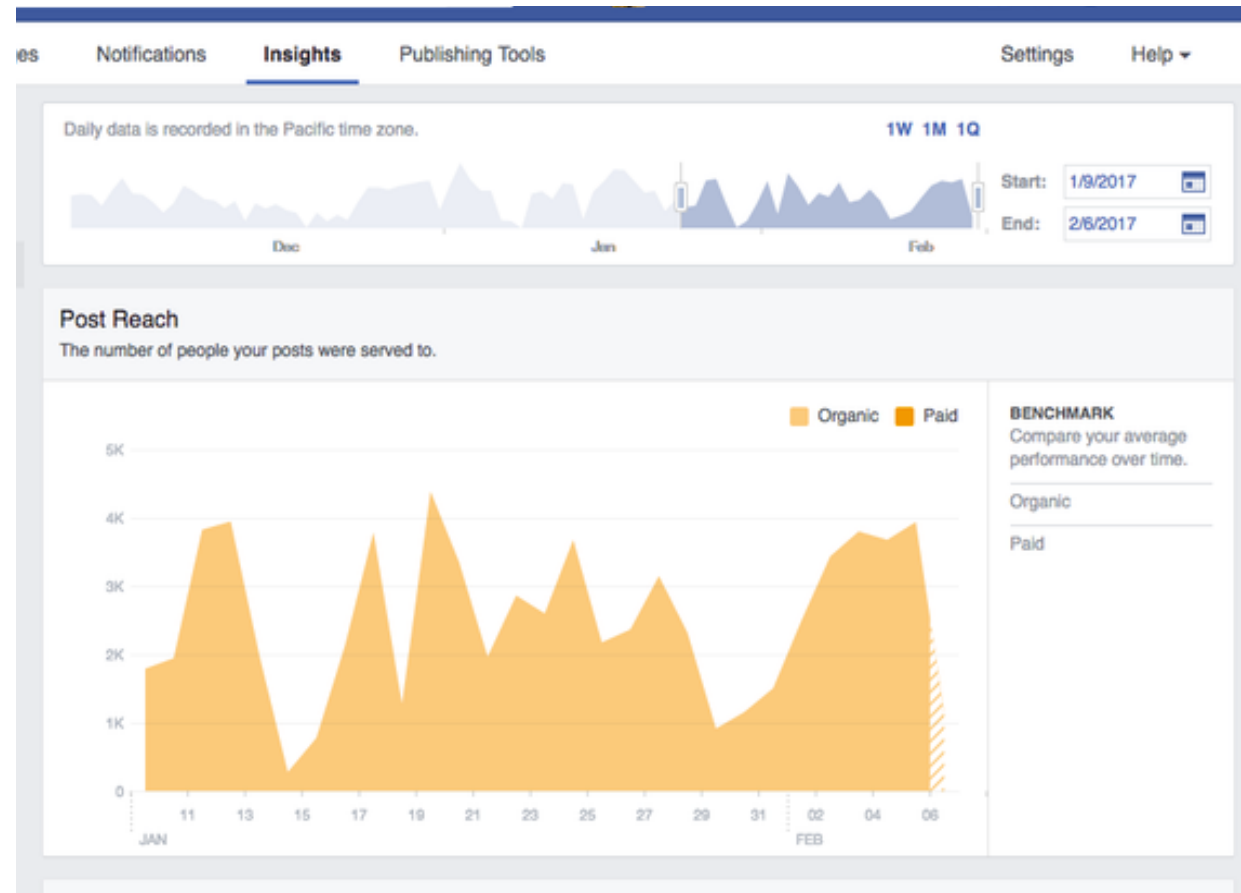
Further discussion dealt with sponsorship, donor recognition charitable status, crowdsourcing for special projects, vendors’ list fee for listing, user pay for download of videos.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Abu Saleh

Seconded: Dave Nixon







CANADIAN SHOW CALENDAR

 ORCHID JOURNAL · SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 · 87 Reads

Largest engaged audience in North America!

To create an event for your orchid show please submit poster & show info or it will not appear on this FB page.

<http://canadianorchidcongress.ca/cocshows/>



INSIGHTS SINCE 02/06/2017

1.3K Reached
+163 this week

37 Viewed
+12 this week

15 Responded
+1 this week

[Boost Event](#) [Share](#) [Edit](#) [...](#)

Vancouver Orchid Society


Show and Sale 2017

溫哥華蘭花會2017年第三十九屆展銷會

Saturday March 25 3月25日
9am-5pm 星期六早上9時至下午5時

Sunday March 26 3月26日
10am-4pm 星期日早上10時至下午4時

Admission: 收費: 成人\$7
\$7 Adults 學生及耆民\$6
\$6 Students & Seniors



MAR 25 Vancouver OS Show & Sale
Public · Family · Hosted by [Orchid Journal](#)

★ Interested ✓ Going [Share](#) [...](#)

March 25 – March 26
Mar 25 at 9 AM to Mar 26 at 4 PM PDT

VanDusen Botanical Garden
5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6M4H1 [Show Map](#)

[About](#) [Discussion](#)

EVENT TIPS [Next Tip](#)

Reach More People, Share Your Event

Help people find out about your event by sharing it in News Feed.

[Share Event](#)



Orchid Journal's role vis a vis Canadian Orchid Congress

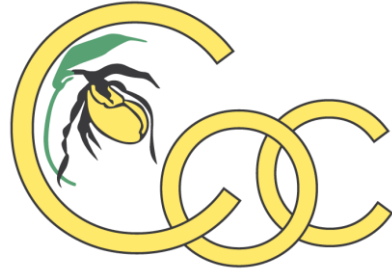
Added value

- Event promotions
- Partnership promotions
- Driving traffic to website
- Speaker announcements
- Member albums
- Webinar promos

Future enhancements – members & associate members

- Live video broadcasting for shows, special events
- Canada Wide Science Fair
- Broadcasts/videos of Fairs
- Links
- Updates

Community recognition



CANADIAN ORCHID CONGRESS EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE AWARD

INFORMATION FOR OUR SOCIETIES

AGM June 9, 2017

Prepared by Jan Johns

Support to Date

Thank you to our donors!

Donor	Level of Support	Donation
Southern Ontario Orchid Society	Platinum plus	\$1,450.00
Vancouver Orchid Society	Gold	\$500.00
Foothills Orchid Society	Silver	\$250.00
Saskatchewan Orchid Society		\$100.00
Orchid Species Preservation Foundation		\$100.00
Jean Hollebhone		\$50.00
Marlene Young		\$50.00

Total fund collected this year: \$2500. We have paid CWSF \$2000, leaving \$500 to support next year's award.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To sustain interest in the biology and conservation of orchids by encouraging young scientists participating in science fairs across Canada
- To enhance public awareness of orchid research and conservation in Canada

COC sponsored Special Award at the Canada Wide Science Festival

- The **Canadian Orchid Congress Award**
- **Sponsor:** Canadian Orchid Congress
- An outstanding senior project that is related to the biology and/or conservation of orchids, their culture or biochemical products. Preference will be given to projects related to native Canadian orchid conservation. The winner will prepare a webinar on the project with the assistance of the Canadian Orchid Congress to be published on their website.
- **Junior:** N/A
Intermediate: N/A
Senior: \$1,000 cash and certificate
- <http://cwsf.youthscience.ca/fair/welcome-regina-2017> (listed under Special Awards)

What is the Canada Wide Science Festival (CWSF)?



A finalist must be under 21 years of age and registered in Grades 7-12 equivalent including CÉGEP 1 and 2 in Québec

- A week of scientific celebration held every year at different venues (University campuses) across Canada – this year in Regina
- 500 young finalists from 100+ affiliated Regional Fairs across Canada and their delegates
- Judged by experts, scientists and researchers
- Viewed (last year in Montreal) by over 10,000 – school groups and the general public

Finalists – our target audience

- Keen young people (Gr 11-12, CÉGEP 1 & 2) looking for projects of interest to them – no vinegar and baking soda volcanoes!
- Have entered CWSF in Grades 7 and 8 and develop a taste for research
- Often return to the Canada Wide Science Fair looking for opportunities to “Medal”
- Return to their science fair community and by their experience encourage other young people in their regions to exceed
- Continue in research and innovation in the future
- Note: Many successful finalists have mentors that provide assistance and support and direction (in the broad sense only) to student research

Science Fair Hierarchy

HELD IN MAY

**CWSF
FINALIST**

HELD IN
MARCH/APRIL

REGIONAL FAIR
(average 5 students
attend the CWSF
annually)

Note: For a good project,
students should begin early –
for field studies this needs to
happen over the summer.

SCHOOL OR
DISTRICT FAIR
(in some regions,
these are not held)



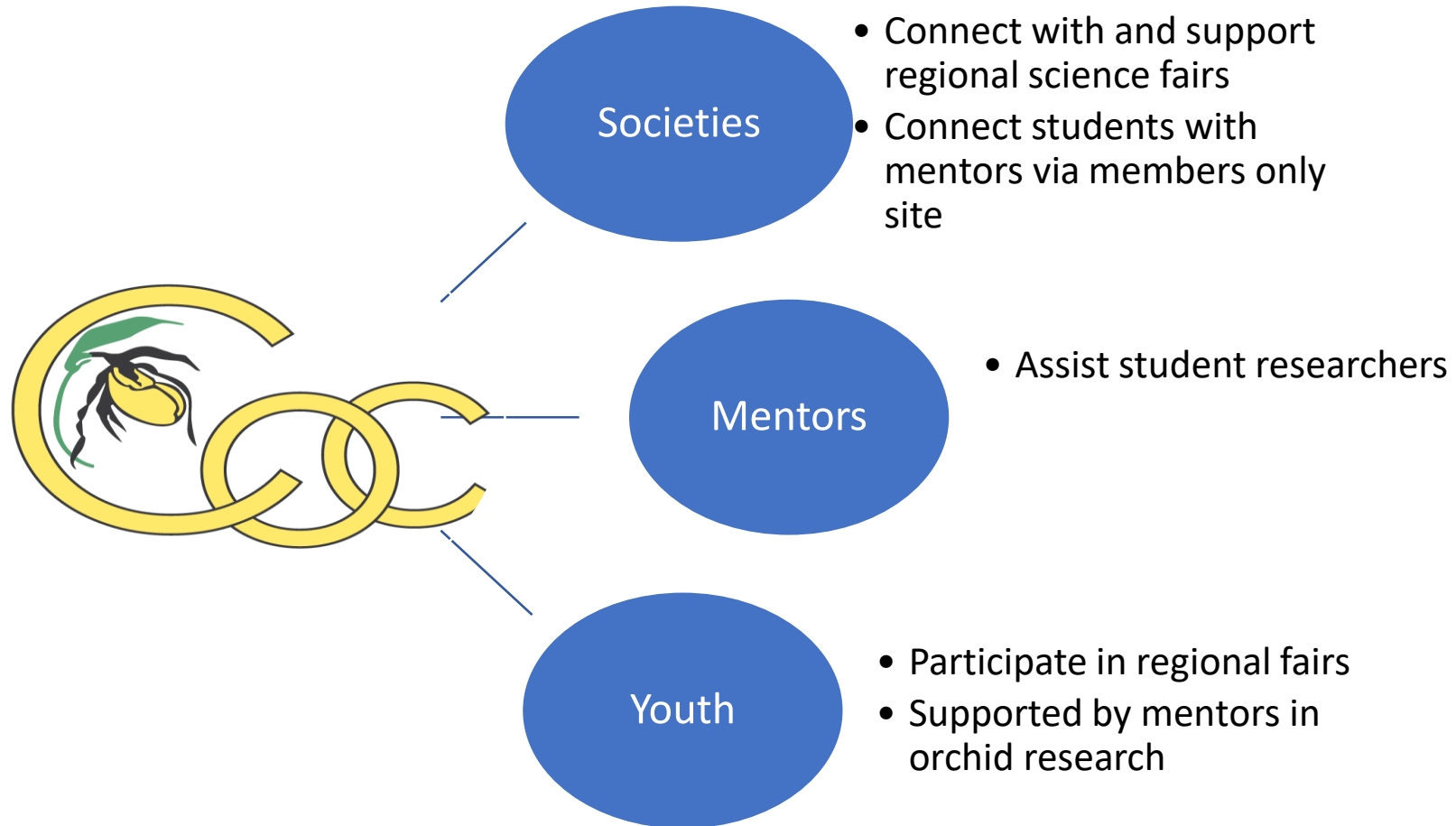
Get Publicity and
Awareness

- Webinar
- Website publishing (COC, CWSF)
- Public Recognition

Provide Student
Support

- Awareness
- How to's
- Mentors
- Certificates

WORKING VISION



What is COC doing?

- Collecting funds to support the initiative (\$2000 - \$1000 for student which is rolled over to the following year if not awarded)
- Making connections with research organizations (Universities, Botanical Gardens, Conservation Organizations, Lab Research facilities) who will provide mentoring for young people interested in orchid research. These will be published on the Members' Only section of the website for affiliate societies to access
- Building a website page of sciences fair resources for young researchers on orchids, orchid conservation
- Connecting with regional science fairs to offer COC certificates at the district and regional levels and connecting (where needed) to orchid societies
- Connecting societies to local regional science fair committees.
- Building a website page to publicize youth projects about orchids and orchid research

What is the benefit to societies?

- Supports conservation mandates that most societies have difficulty meeting
- For societies in the CWSF area (Regina this year) provides access, judging and tickets to the Awards Ceremony
- Encourages young people (including parents of youth) to be more engaged in orchid societies
- Provides a link to other community supports for orchid research and conservation
- Provides a wider audience and sustainability by engaging youth in the love and conservation of orchids

Future Possibilities

- Connecting with additional youth science organizations to publicize the initiative (i.e. museums, youth outreach etc.)
- Provide funds for mentoring organizations to encourage and support youth researchers
- Host a booth at the CWSF for orchid conservation and research
- Provide additional special awards at JR and INT levels
- Provide materials to assist outreach to schools

Next Steps - Discussion

- Societies can assign someone with teaching/science fair experience to this portfolio?
- Letter to regional science fair committees with contacts for local orchid societies
- Provide information to individual societiesideas on supporting youth with....
 - publicizing on their society website, on social media,
 - send students a certificate of appreciation,
 - have a presence at the regional fairs – booth, display, judging, volunteering
- Build youth website support (summer)
- Talking to schools – how to connect?
- Social media
- Offer awards and outreach at earlier age
- Universities good place to make connections
- Contact organizations that support science fair provincially