



Orchid Column

Canadian Orchid Congress Update
Volume 29.1–May 2020



President's Message

Newsletter Spotlight



Thank you for using our medals marking the 30th Anniversary of the COC. They were to highlight both the Best Show Display as well as the Youth Award Criteria. Look forward to a new look for the Best Show Display coming soon. Remember to send us the names and pics of award winners for publishing.



Our logo symbolizes the protection of native orchids as one of the mandates for COC.

Dearest members and friends of the COC,

Currently, we are facing the greatest health threat in the form of COVID-19 (or SARS-2) of the 21st century. As such, it is important for us to follow appropriate safety protocols to protect our loved ones as well as our society. We must thank our governments and healthcare groups for keeping us safe and pray for those that were taken away. Humankind is resilient and we will overcome this pandemic with unprecedented conscience and awareness that was stripped away during the industrial revolution. Life will return to a new normal.

As such, I am proud to present the first issue of our newsletter, affectionately called the COC Orchid Column. It will be issued up to three times a year to give information and current news /updates between the societies and regional areas. It is a way to communicate in a few pages what the COC and societies are doing to connect their harmonious and mutually beneficial activities.

As a second year President, I have worked with the Board to increase the efficiency of the organization. We have formed several committees to diversify our talents and volunteers including the Education Committee, Conservation Committee, and the Social Media Committee. Each of these will take care of the issues and projects within their specialties. This will help in expediting and dispersing of duties and activities among the volunteers. We also expanded our online library to include a secured 2nd Tier educational collection of articles and presentations for our member societies (not available to the general public) that can be shown at a society meeting in lieu of a speaker. In addition, a few problem areas were identified. The security of the website and email scams were addressed, and necessary reforms were implemented. Another issue that came up was that some volunteers felt they were wrongly treated and bullied. This is a very grave concern as we are all organizations of volunteers! As such, there is zero tolerance for this. I encourage our societies to refer to our 'Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities' later in this newsletter. Let us treat each other as we would like to be treated ourselves. Glass houses should be for orchids only.

We are sad to report that Gail Schwartz is leaving the COC for retirement, and we wish her well. Gail has served the COC as Education Chair since 2010. She has spent countless hours on Travel Subsidies and ensuring that the Orchid Culture Sheets were correct and up-to-date. We thank her for all her help and wish her the best for her next adventure.

At this point I would like to remind each member to consider their orchid collection emergency care (OCEC) should anything happen to them. This might be in the form of a family member stepping up or they can contact an orchid buddy or the society to arrange and expedite proper collection care. This will prevent mass collection loss due to protracted action that is easily preventable. Orchids depend on us!

Let us all help each other find a better world for us and our orchids!

Dr. Leslie Ee, COC President 2018-2020.

COC Updates



TIER 2 RESOURCES

The current situation might be a good time to access our Tier 2 Resources or perhaps produce an article or a video for the COC Tier 2 Resource Centre. See how at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRA_2Y9ImIA

Please check with your society President for your society's username and access password. Log in and search from the menu provided. If you need further information, or if you have produced a written work/video on Conservation, Species/Hybrids or Culture and would like to share them with other societies within the Canadian Orchid Congress, please contact us at info@canadianorchidcongress.ca

THE ANNUAL AGM IS COMING SOON

SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2020

2 pm ADT: 1 pm EDT: 12 noon CDT: 11 am MDT: 10 am PDT

This is an online Zoom meeting. Societies may have more than one person attend the meeting, however each society has only one vote accepted from the COC Representative or designate. Please watch for the Registration Advisory and make sure that you reply to have your society's voice heard. Be sure to check your spam folder, as Mailchimp is used. All relevant documents will be forwarded with the Registration Advisory.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you love orchids? Are you looking for something to do in your free time, but not sure what to do? Consider joining the COC as a volunteer.

1. REGIONAL REPORTERS

Tell us what is going on in the Western, Prairies, Central or Eastern Regions. We specifically need pictures and news about COC and Society initiatives.

2. COC COMMITTEES

- EDUCATION
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- CONSERVATION

3. COC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please send us a note to info@canadianorchidcongress.ca

We will send you a volunteer form to indicate the areas in which you are interested and the skills that you can share.

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/canadianorchidcongress/>

Send us your posts and stay in touch.

TELL US WHAT YOUR SOCIETY IS DOING

What is your society doing to engage members in these difficult times?

As an example, Ottawa Orchid Society held a Virtual Orchid Show using photos. There were over 80 entries. Windsor Orchid Society is having an online auction. Send a brief description of the ways your society has been coping during the pandemic to info@canadianorchidcongress.ca. We will post them in the next issue. Pictures are always welcome.

Spotlight on *Cypripedium*



Cypripedium parviflorum (yellow lady's-slipper)
located at Tobermory, the Bruce Peninsula 2017
Photo Credit Leslie Ee (front page also)

Yellow Lady's - Slipper

This beautiful member of the *Cypripedium* genus is represented in our logo. The Yellow Lady's - Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) can be found from coast to coast, with secure populations in most provinces and territories except New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan (where it is on a watch list to monitor it's status) and Yukon where it is considered rare.* Varying in size depending on conditions, this orchid can range from 12 to 80 cm in height. This

harbinger of early summer is one of the more common orchids in Ontario. Along the highways and trails of the Bruce Peninsula, they can appear as common as dandelions, making the roadsides alive with yellow blossoms. *Cyp. parviflorum* can be found in any number of habitats, from fens and woodlands to meadows – but look for them as an “edge” plant where there is lots of sun. *Cypripedium parviflorum* has two main varieties – var. *pubescens* (Large Yellow Lady's Slipper) and var. *makasin* (Small Yellow Lady's Slipper)
*North American Orchid Conservation Center

Contributed by John Alexander



Parviflorum var. *parviflorum* (photo by Shawn Hillis)



Parviflorum var. *pubescens* (photo by Shawn Hillis)



Cypripedium Francis

photo by Shawn Hillis

GARDEN SLIPPERS

The distinctive flowers of *Cypripedium* and other Lady's Slipper orchids are marked by the inflated slipper or shoe-shaped lip. The name *Cypripedium* is derived from Kypris, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, the Latin word *pedis* meaning 'foot' and the Greek word *pedilon* meaning 'slipper'. There are about 58 species worldwide, of which 13 are in North America, and 8 native to Canada.

Cypripedium have had a long-standing reputation for being fussy, if not impossible to cultivate. The first *Cypripedium* was described in the mid 1500's, but only

in the last thirty years have the secrets of germination and flasking evolved to the point that these plants could be offered commercially. Until recently there were only a handful of plants being produced and available world-wide, while nurseries primarily in Europe, continue to produce limited numbers for only a small market.

Often referred to as *calceolus*, our native yellow orchid species are actually *parviflorum*. It is important to make this distinction because of habit and vigour. *Parviflorum* are much easier to grow and reliable in Canadian gardens. There are four named varieties of *parviflorum*, which include a large form *parviflorum*

Culture Tips (cont.)

var *pubescens* and a small form *parviflorum* var *parviflorum*, both of which have been used extensively by breeders because of their clumping habit and hardy vigour. *Parviflorum* produce outstanding hybrids and are highly recommended as starter plants.



Cypripedium Phillip Selection

With close to 200 hybrids and rising, now is the best time to get growing. Currently five clones have been trademarked and still more are to come. Species from China, Europe and North America have been hybridized to give the adventurous gardener endless options in color, shape and size. Growers can even extend their flowering season by growing late flowering species, like *kentuckiense*, *reginae*, and the hybrids that they produce.

A few simple cultural practices can greatly increase your success rate. First and maybe one of the most important things you can avoid is never transplanting while the plants are actively growing, but only when they are dormant. I guarantee that this simple practice will save you money and a lot of frustration. Transplanting plants in active growth is common practice in the garden nursery trade, but is a misunderstood practice as far as *Cypripedium* are concerned.

Most *Cypripedium* are woodland plants and prefer cool sites that do not become too hot and dry in the summer. Semi-shade with no direct midday summer sun is recommended. The North side of a structure or tree provides a suitable place, but avoid planting near or under large trees and shrubs, as other fast growing large perennials will smother *Cypripedium* due to their slow growing nature. *Cypripedium* will thrive in a shady bed with smaller, slower growing ferns and other shade loving perennials.



Cypripedium Frosch's Mountain King

Cypripedium require a well aerated and free draining soil, ideally in non-compacted healthy garden soil with good structure. Manure or manure-based compost should not be added, nor should compost be used as a replacement for a good bark mulch ground cover. Mulching in the Spring can help maintain moisture as well as keep the roots cool throughout the summer. The addition of mulch will also help regulate temperature fluctuations throughout the winter months. A good mulch consists of wood chips of varying sizes, leaves and conifer needles. A good mixture of organic matter will remain fresh longer and reduce rotting due to stale conditions. Avoid cedar wood chips which contain allelopathic chemicals

Culture Tips (cont.)

(growth inhibitors). *Cypripedium* do not need to be grown in artificial bogs or other specialized beds.

When growing *Cypripedium* in the garden, make sure to spread out the roots in the upper 12 centimetres of soil, placing the rhizome 3 centimetres below the surface of the soil. Fill in the remaining substrate without compressing it, and then water thoroughly.

The soil should never dry out completely during active growth. Fertilize your *Cypripedium* regularly during Spring, using fertilizers at half concentration. Early applications of nitrogen even before the buds emerge in the Spring is recommended. Any stored winter energy will be used later on in the growing cycle to produce buds for the following year.

Cypripedium grow best alongside slow growing ferns, barrenwort, and trillium species. *Cypripedium* are hardy plants in this climate and are built to completely freeze in the winter. A layer of mulch will help prevent dormant shoots from drying out and becoming exposed to the elements.

The number one pest for *Cypripedium* is slugs, so special attention should be given during early Spring as new shoots emerge from the soil.



Cypripedium John Haggard



Cypripedium Frosch's Queen of the Mist

Although more challenging, *Cypripedium* can be grown in pots, which can be overwintered indoors. Tender slippers can be accommodated in temperatures anywhere between -4°C and $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for at least 4 months. A cool basement or a particularly chilly window will often be enough to accommodate a wide range of temperate tenders. I myself use an unheated garage and supplement the heat in the growing area with a space heater when temperatures fall below -4°C .

Winter watering can be a challenge and is dependent on the species. Cool temperatures and wet conditions can cause problems. Overwinter *Cypripedium* on the dry side, checking them every couple of weeks. Usually cool, dark areas are slow to dry, so use only enough water to just wet the media. Because the plants are not absorbing water when dormant, the purpose of watering is only to prevent the plant's desiccation. If the media is left bone dry, moisture will actually be drawn out of the plant. Conversely, very damp, wet conditions will suffocate the plant and drown it in its own media.

A good peat based potting mix is all that is required to grow healthy *Cypripedium*. I suggest Pro-mix with a little extra perlite added. Also, it should be noted that

Culture Tips (cont.)

orchid potting media and garden soil are different animals and are not interchangeable. Pro-mix is not a soil substitute, nor does garden soil do well in orchid culture. I am currently overwintering *Cypripedium* bare root in freezer bags that contain only a small amount of perlite moistened by a couple of drops of water.

www.gardenslippers.com

info@gardenslippers.com

Shawn Hillis

Note: All photos in this article by Shawn Hillis



Cypripedium Paul



Cypripedium x columbianum



Cypripedium Peter



Conservation Corner

Conservation and Recovery Plans for Cypripedium Orchids in Canada

In search of conservation plans of Cypripedium orchids in Canada, I am saddened to report that the results were woefully underwhelming. My first glance at the COSEWIC's (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) annual report from 2018 – 2019 sighted only one Cypripedium orchid.

Here is the link to the Annual Report:

COSEWIC Annual report

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-annual-reports/2018-2019.html>

Here is the link to the Vascular plants listed:

Vascular Plants

https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/sar/index/default_e.cfm?stype=species&lng=e&index=1&common=&scientific=&population=&taxid=12&locid=0&desid=0&schid=0&desid2=0&

Orchids found on the Vascular Plant List:

Species	Province(s)	National Status	Provincial Status
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Ontario	Endangered	Endangered
Large Whorled Pogonia <i>Isotria verticillata</i>	Ontario	Endangered	Endangered
Nodding Pogonia <i>Triphora trianthophoros</i>	Ontario	Endangered	Endangered
Phantom Orchid <i>Cephalanthera austiniiae</i>	British Colombia	Endangered	Endangered
Purple Twayblade <i>Liparis lilifolia</i>	Ontario / Quebec	Threatened	Threatened
Small White Lady's Slipper <i>Cypripedium candidum</i>	Ontario / Manitoba	Threatened	Threatened
Small Whorled Pogonia <i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Ontario	Endangered	Endangered
Ute Ladies's Tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	British Colombia Added this year	Endangered	No Status
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	Manitoba	Endangered	Endangered

Status explanations: **Extirpated** – The species no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but lives elsewhere; **Endangered** – The species is at risk of becoming extirpated or extinct; **Threatened** – The species is at risk of becoming endangered.

Conservation Corner (cont.)



C. candidum Small White Lady's Slipper
photo by John Alexander

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) will agree that the main threats to our native orchids include: Picking and poaching, Trampling, Invasive Species and Habitat Destruction.

As an organization that helps to promote the conservation of our native orchids, we should be actively educating the general public on the first three, (picking / poaching, trampling, invasive species) and working with local governments and organizations to combat the removal of invasive species and habitat destruction. This is the least we can do.

John Alexander
Co-chair
SOOS Conservation Committee

Note: John has also joined the Canadian Orchid Congress Conservation Committee.

There are several reports available online for the work that is being done for *C. candidum*.

Original Recovery strategy: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/small-white-ladys-slipper-recovery-strategy>

Status report: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/small-white-lady-slipper-2014.html>

The status report indicates that agreements are underway to protect more historical land on Walpole Island, and to monitor the other colony on provincial park land. The status of *C. candidum* has moved from the original Endangered to Threatened.

Where they currently grow, other *Cypripedium* species are being protected in the park land. A case in point is the Franklin's or Sparrow's Egg Lady's Slipper (*C. passerinum*) that is closely monitored in Pukaskwa National Park (north of Wawa, Ontario on Lake Superior). In the Park, ongoing work continues to preserve and stabilize the fragile habitat of this orchid. To discourage bushwhacking, the park's staff, and by appointment only, will guide visitors to the plants when they are in bloom, and regularly monitor the area. In many of our provincial and national parks, park staff will not direct anyone to where orchids are found in the park to prevent poaching and trampling.

We should probably rejoice that there is only one *Cypripedium*, *C. candidum*, listed at risk internationally and only nine orchids nationally, yet all our native orchids need protection. Ontario Nature and

Regional Round Up—Central



ORCHID FEST 2019

This year's Orchid Fest SOOS meeting took place on August 4th, and what an event it was! Many gorgeous orchids were on display and ready for AOS judging by the Toronto Judging Centre, which began at 9:30AM. Types of orchids that were submitted for judging included *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Phragmipedium*, *Cycnoches*, and many more! As I myself have only been successful (so far) with keeping *Phals* and *Paphs*, this was a very impressive and inspiring sight to see. The winners and their points earned are as follows:

Phalaenopsis Crystal Surprise 'Cad's Solare' AM/AOS
81 points, David Bryan

Paphiopedilum Hung Sheng Pink 'Velikay' HCC/AOS
77 points, Taras Kowalczyk

Catasetum B-C Pioneer 'Dark Quest' AM/AOS
80 points, Bernie Butts & Chuck Lefaive

Catasetum Kleberbarb 'Golden Archers' HCC
76 points, Doug & Terry Kennedy

Vanda falcata var *jou-mou-manu* JC/AOS
Taras Kowalczyk

Congrats to all the winners and keep up the good work!

The judging was followed by a wide variety of goodies provided for the potluck lunch— everything from salads, snacks, and desserts. Many thanks to all who

contributed! During this time, members were also able to pick up their orders from the special guest speaker Alan Koch; from *Gold Country Orchids*. Alan came all the way from Lincoln, California. I myself was able to pick up an order of *Bulbophyllum*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Cattleya*. Fingers crossed for success as I've never grown *Bulbs* or *Cattleyas* before! Alan also had some small orchid varieties for purchase at the table as well, and many of our Orchid Fest guests could be seen perusing the selection.

The second half of the day was focused on Alan Koch's presentations; *Cattleyas: 24/7, 365* and *The ABC's of Orchid Nutrition*. Both presentations were extremely informative, and full of information useful to beginners, intermediate, and experienced orchid growers alike. Key topics included:

When to re-pot

Water pH

Fertilizing for different types of orchids

Tips for flowering

It's okay to kill orchids!

This year's Orchid Fest was definitely a great success. I look forward to next summer's Fest, as well as the upcoming Show & Sale in 2020. See you then! – Michelle Gauthier September 2019

Regional Round Up- Western

The West Coast Canadian Orchid Societies include Central Vancouver Island OS, Fraser Valley OS, Vancouver OS, Victoria OS

WESTERN JUDGING CENTRE

One of the most important orchid events of the last two years was the formation of the Western Canada Judging Association. Previously, the Canadian judges would travel to the US, to judge orchids as part of the Pacific Coast Judging Centre. As there are a large number of qualified AOS judges (8-10 including students) in British Columbia, it made far more sense for us to have our own judging centre. A group, headed by Abu Salleh, worked very hard to bring this about in late 2017. Here is Abu's report on the first year of operation.

We had a very exciting 2018 of judging activities, in our first complete calendar year as the Western Canada Judging Center. We had an amazing year and a big thank you to all the judges, photographers and judging personnel, and most of all, exhibitors for coming to our monthly judgments and exhibiting in society show displays this year. Because of your contribution, we get to see and experience a great variety of plant material because of all your support! The splitting up of our monthly judging venue between Sea Island (Richmond) and Swan Lake (Victoria) allow exhibitors on the mainland as well as the island easier access to AOS judgments and we benefit from more plant material.

Here are some numbers for 2018:

*186 plants submitted at monthly judgments
66 plants nominated with 17 AOS awards granted
1502 plants submitted at show judgments and outreach judgments*

*67 plants nominated with 26 AOS awards granted
This program has continued through 2019 and is still very well attended.*

An AOS Outreach Judging at a society monthly meeting program in 2019, is also offered, if requested.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Some exciting international speakers have attended the meetings of all four societies this year: Roy Tokunaga of H&R Orchids in Hawaii, Wenqing Perner of the Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology Institute, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids USA and Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids USA. All societies have experts within their societies who present on special culture techniques or trips to international orchid shows or orchid hunting trips.

On Vancouver Island, we are fortunate to have several large growers who welcome society groups to their greenhouses. Paramount Orchids regularly schedule trips for the island societies and are marvellous hosts. Both CVIOS and VicOS have taken trips to Paramount this year and purchased some excellent and unusual plants.

Western Canada (cont.)

FRASER VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY

The Fraser Valley Orchid Society is extremely lucky to have an outstanding AOS photographer as a member. **Judith Higham** is a name that you will often see in the *Orchids Magazine* as the photographer of awarded orchids. Her contribution to the orchid community has been much more than just photographing awarded plants. She attends almost all judging sessions and, for years, has also taken pictures of ribbon awards at the local shows. Ed Higham, her husband, is also a photographer and he photographs awarded displays.

I asked **Judith** to describe her work over the years. She kindly provided me with the following:

Spring 2006 – Bill Bischoff (VOS) neighbour worked with my husband. Bill tasked the neighbour to ask around at his work whether there was someone who could photograph flowers for the 2007 VOS spring orchid show. My husband offered me, but I rejected the idea several times. Finally, I gave in and agreed. I asked the President what was needed for photography and she suggested I could get the info from the judging centre which was starting up in September 2006 at Sea Island Community Centre, Richmond.

At that meeting I found Jerry Suffolk who agreed to let me photograph with him. I also became one of the photographers for the monthly judging

meetings. I needed more practice to be able to take pictures like those I saw in the AOS magazines. The opportunities came from the local orchid societies' monthly meetings and photographing the "Best of" ribbon awards as well as the AOS Awards at annual orchid shows.

I was surprised when my digital camera also became a tool for the judges who needed to see the very tiny species to judge them. My most exciting moments are in the close-up (macro) photography for identifying species orchids. Some orchids have identifying features which are difficult to photograph: tiny hairs, sparkle, texture or transparency. All of these challenges excite me.

*2007 – Spring 2018 VOS monthly mtgs and shows
2008 Fall – 2018 Spring FVOS monthly mtgs & shows from 2010*

*VicOS, CVIOS Shows from 2010
Edmonton Shows from 2015*

I have received the Orchid Digest Award of Excellence and Volunteer of the Year Awards from Fraser Valley Orchid Society; lifetime membership from the Vancouver Orchid Society; and the Lauer Award from the American Orchid Society.

Western Canada (cont.)

ORCHID SHOWS

Orchid Shows are the main events of the orchid year. There are four shows each year in the greater Vancouver area and on Vancouver Island. Each show involves the work of many people. The most work is done by the host show of course, but societies with visiting displays also require dedicated people to set up, manage the displays, and take the plants safely home. They also must make sure plants are correctly identified, writing name tags so the they can be judged for both ribbons and awards. Usually this job is done by a small group of people, year after year.

For the Victoria Orchid Society, Don & Marilyn Mills have taken on this task for many years. Don's extensive orchid knowledge and Marilyn's creative talents have made lovely and informative displays for more than a decade. They are shown here with their display for the Fraser Valley Orchid Show, held on October 26th.



The Fraser Valley Show is always a lovely one. A wide range of vendors sell there each year. Three of the vendors are shown here with their orchid collections.



Left: Chuck of
Paramount Orchids



Right: Terry &
Charlotte of
Forestview Orchids



Ten Shin Orchids

DISPLAYS

The displays were beautiful with some extraordinary plants. The Show Champion *Brassolaeliacattleya* Ingeborg 'Cowichan Gold' HCC/AOS, was grown by Svend Munkholm of the Victoria Orchid Society. Svend is known for growing huge cattleyas which are always major contenders for *Best of Show*.

Western Canada (cont.)



SHOW GRAND CHAMPION

The Reserve Show Champion, *Coelogyne fibriata*, was grown by Yolanda Breck of the Fraser Valley Orchid Society.



RESERVE SHOW CHAMPION

Orchid Society Displays:

This year, on the set-up day for the show we were hit by such high winds that many ferries from the Island to the mainland were cancelled,

causing problems for the Vancouver Island societies. Some of the set-up people had to overnight in Vancouver as there was no way to return home.

The next western shows will occur on the island in February and March of 2020. (*Ed. Please note that this article was written in September 2019*)

Photos and report by Diana Rowles

September 2019

DISPLAYS FROM THE FRASER VALLEY ORCHID SHOW



Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities

With one or two exceptions, all our orchid societies are governed and run by volunteers. What this means is that if we do not have, or are not able to keep volunteers, our societies will fold. We must pay attention to recruiting volunteers, maintaining them and replacing them on a regular basis so that knowledge is in the hands of the many rather than running through the fingers of the few.

Canadian statistics (Statistics Canada) tell us that most of the volunteer work is done by only 10% of the population – and that while volunteerism increases between the ages of 35 to 74, it rapidly decreases after this. I wonder why? What is the average age of your membership – your volunteer pool?

Canadian statistics also tell us that most volunteers want to make a difference to their community and to use their skills and experience. This applies to many of our newly retired members who are looking for a meaningful way to contribute after being in the workforce. Other reasons include being involved with the cause of the organization (i.e. orchid lovers), to improve health and well being and to network and meet people. These are all good reasons for all of us to volunteer.

There are two levels of volunteers in our societies – those on the governing board, and those who volunteer in many other ways .

All volunteers have the right to:

- Be respected and included in words and deeds.
- Be recognized for contributions whether large or small.
- Understand their volunteer role in both its importance and its limitations.
- Have their personal information treated confidentially.

Those on the governing board play a major role in running a viable organization, making sure that we maintain and recruit volunteers. They have responsibilities as well as rights.

Governing board members have the responsibility to:

- Work as a team.
- Respect all members.
- Regularly report financial and organizational matters to all members.
- Recruit volunteers in an inclusive way from all members.
- Ensure that volunteers are placed in roles that use, but not abuse their time or skills.
- Be proactive in preventing problems that can develop between volunteer members.
- Listen carefully if problems develop and provide prompt and thoughtful solutions.
- Exercise reasonable care in all decision making.
- Act in the best interests of the organization rather than self-interest.
- Be faithful to the society's mission, obey laws, by-laws and manage funds prudently.
- Advocate for the society in a positive manner both privately and publicly.
- Prepare for succession planning – train another volunteer to take over their role within a reasonable time frame.

Let us be respectful, thoughtful and keep all the members of our societies growing together.

Conference Board of Canada. (2018). *The Value of Volunteering in Canada*. Ottawa: Conference Board of Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2012–2017). *Volunteering and donating*. Retrieved October 2019, from Statistics Canada: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/subjects/society_and_community/volunteering_and_donating?sourcecode=4430

COC Travel Subsidies

The following societies were awarded travel subsidies of \$200 for 2019 from the COC. These are awarded to assist with bringing in speakers or travelling to educational events. Societies must spend \$400, matching the \$200 grant. If your society would like to be considered for a travel subsidy in 2020, please watch for the COC Advisory indicating that the new application form is available on the website. The deadline for submission will move to August 31 for 2020. Note: New guidelines will be outlined at the AGM and on the website after the meeting. <https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/coctravel/>

Manitoba Orchid Society



Manitoba banded with several other societies including Foothills OS, OS

of Alberta and Saskatchewan OS to bring Francisco Miranda to give talks on *Cattleya* and *Laelia* in the Western Region.

Windsor Orchid Society



Windsor used their funds to bring John Marcotte of Orchids Canada and Leslie Ee, President COC as speakers to their society.

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids visited Central Vancouver Orchid Society in June. Alan gave a very informative presentation on *Cattleya* with many tips and growing tricks. Some *Cattleya* recommendations included *Cattleya intermedia* which he described as bulletproof and *Cattleya alcandiae* as it does not need a temperature differential. Alan is a wonderful speaker and they all hope to see him again in the future.

Essex County Orchid Society

Essex County brought Edgar Stehli from Ohio to give a presentation on *Bulbophyllum*. Edgar was able to bring some divisions with him. It was a great presentation with wonderful pictures of the many varieties he grows so well.

COC Recognition Certificates



Adele Beitler (right) receives the COC Certificate of Recognition from Dr. Leslie Ee (right) for her dedication, professionalism and outstanding organizational work as Secretary of the Board of Directors on behalf of the Canadian Orchid Congress.



Wilson Ng (left) receives the COC Certificate of Recognition from Dr. Leslie Ee (right) for his professionalism and dedication as Treasurer of the Board of Directors on behalf of the Canadian Orchid Congress.

COC Recognition Certificates were also awarded to two long-term members of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Bob Lucas, or Dr. Phal as his license plate reads, has not only been an active member of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society (SOS) for 30 years, but served in several of its Executive positions, such as President, Past President, and Newsletter Editor. Today, Bob continues to provide the SOS with stable leadership and financial stability. In addition to freely sharing his extensive knowledge of *Paphs*, *Phals* and *Phrags* with both new and longstanding SOS members, he has delved into hybridizing his own crosses, which he then generously offers fellow members as incentive for early membership renewal. Some



might think that Bob's life extends beyond his affliction with orchids, but they are soon proven wrong. Like most orchid enthusiasts, Bob continues his orchid obsession at home, where he experiments with new growing and cultural techniques. Fortunately for the SOS, Bob's findings, whether good or bad, are soon shared with and eagerly received by his Society's members. Bob was actively involved in planning two COC Annual Meetings/Shows, namely in Saskatoon in 2002 and 2015. He also travelled regularly out of Saskatchewan to transport the SOS's displays to Shows held in neighboring provinces. Over the years, Bob's hybrids have received numerous accolades, ribbons and awards most recently at the 2017 Foothills Orchid Society (FOS) Show and at Orchid Society of Alberta's (OSA) Orchid Fair. Always enthusiastic to generously devote his time, talent, and wisdom, Bob Lucas and his contributions have shaped the very nature of the SOS into the vibrant organization it is today.

COC Recognition Certificates (cont.)

Sherida Gregoire has been a member of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society (SOS) for over 20 years, in which time she served on the Executive as President, Past President, Vice President, and Secretary. As a general 'Member' and for



which there is no formal title, Sherida's activities included organization, collection, and care of orchids she'd purchased from a local Safeway and Co-op that she would then donate for raffle at SOS's monthly meetings. It wasn't uncommon for the raffle table to hold 12 to 40 of Sherida's acquisitions, which were well received by winning raffle ticket holders. Her efforts definitely contributed to the Society's financial stability. SOS members

continue to enjoy the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets, hoping to leave the meeting with several new orchids to add to their collection. A Master Gardener, Sherida generously shares her knowledge of growing orchids as well as other plants with Society members. She was actively involved in both the 2002 and the 2015 COC Annual Meeting/Shows in Saskatoon. She promotes the SOS at the Safeway/Co-op floral department, where she acquires her plants, and through her participation at Gardenscape, an annual local landscaping event in Saskatoon. Her expertise and creativity in producing orchid displays was evident at recent Orchid Shows in both Edmonton and Calgary. The SOS is truly privileged to benefit from Sherida's devotion of time, talent and energy.

Photos show each recipient receiving their certificates from Tracey Thue, President of the Saskatchewan OS

If your society would like to honor a contributing member with outstanding national service COC Recognition Certificate, please check out the criteria at <https://canadianorchidcongress.ca/cocawards/cocawards2/>.

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- Giulia Comin—Vancouver Orchid Society, Newsletter design
- Leslie Ee—Southern Ontario Orchid Society, Acquisition Editor
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