

Orchiflora

Volume 4, Issue 4
January 2014

Announcements:

Speaker series:

January 22: Judy Higham: 'Points of View - Photographing Orchids'

Whether you have a point-and-shoot camera or an SLR, some of her ideas will help you set up your scene, focus on a specific flower, crop in-camera, and take close-up images (macro). This presentation is designed to help you achieve successful images whether you are photographing your own orchids at home, or at our society's show table.

February 26: Margaret Prat: 'Ecuador and what I learned about orchids'

Margaret will present on her recent trip to Ecuador and its different climatic zones, and what this means for growing tropical orchids.

Culture class, held in the Cedar room, VanDusen Gardens from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, all orchid related questions welcome

February 10: Dividing and propagating your orchids: learn how to increase your collection and have orchids to trade: dividing at repotting, use of back bulbs, keiki growing; bring your plants and your questions

March 10: Repotting class: this is a hands on class where we repot orchids and discuss the different potting materials; if you plan to repot, please bring potting media

Upcoming shows:

Mount Baker Orchid Society show: March 1-2, 2014

Skagit Valley Gardens, 18923 Peter Johnson Road, Mount Vernon, WA, USA.
Show hours are 9am - 5pm Saturday March 1 and 9am - 4pm Sunday March 2.

Victoria Orchid Society Show and Sale: March 8-9 2014 (NEW VENUE!)

Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Road, Victoria, B.C. (lots of free, easy parking)
Saturday March 8, 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday March 9, 10:30 am to 4 pm

Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale: March 22-23 2014

VanDusen Gardens, Floral Hall, 5251 Oak street, Vancouver, B.C.

Saturday March 22, 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday March 23, 10 am to 4 pm

Preview party Friday March 21 7:30 pm to 10 pm

Don't forget to renew your membership! The renewal form can be found at the back of this newsletter as well as on our website.

www.VancouverOrchidSociety.ca

Monthly General Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month (except July, August & December) at Van Dusen Floral Hall Doors Open 6:30pm, Meeting starts at 7:30pm

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Promoting the Education & the Cultivation of Orchids

Message From The President:

Dear fellow orchid lovers,

Happy New Year! We all have wishes for 2014, and I sincerely hope that all your aspirations for the coming year will be granted.

The holiday season is now over, and we are only going to get longer days. When it is dark and gray outside, I am reminded of the words of a long time VOS member: there is very little light in the Lower Mainland during these short winter nights. Whenever I travel to Ottawa, I am reminded that the days are slightly longer in Eastern Canada, but especially, there is more winter sun. And snow reflects light so beautifully that most indoor plants get quite a bit of light because of the combined factors. But the Pacific Coast has low light in this season. I await February with impatience, when the orchids seem to wake up with more light and more heat. Of course, we are all thankful not to be subjected to the Arctic cold vortex, such as Eastern Canada has experienced.

At this time I want to thank all the wonderful members who helped set up (and take down) for the Christmas party. Also, thank you members for all the wonderful items you donated for the Christmas auction, we raised close to \$800 for the Society! ...and of course, none of this would be possible without eager VOS buyers. Also, a big thank you to our spirited auctioneer, Stella Li.

A reminder that our show is coming up very soon. Like last year, I would ask all VOS members to work on advertising our Annual show (March 22 & March 23), through word of mouth and putting up posters. But especially, let each one of us think of where we could reach our potential audience: a gardening store billboard, a local garden club, a florist shop. Most orchid lovers have a natural interest in plants, so it makes sense to reach all plant lovers as our first objective. I am reminded of the words of one of our VOS members, who only regrets that he started late (age 61) to grow orchids. Of course, he was interested in tropical plants before that, but orchids were special. After 15 years, he has become a highly successful orchid grower, with an amazing greenhouse. See me if you want to know who is the mystery member....

In closing I do want to share one of my hopes for 2014: that the VOS can find a President for the coming year. As you may (or may not) know, one can only be President for a 2 year term, and my term will be ending in June 2014. Even if I will no longer be President, I will remain active in the Society, and I hope to keep alive the tradition of helping members with increasing their knowledge about orchids and how to grow them well. In fact, my fondest wish is that each member gets the information they need to understand how to grow their favourite orchid(s). This is the very purpose of culture class, and I intend to remain involved in that capacity. Yes, there is the internet that can help us, but I have come to realize that "the devil is in the details" and this is best conveyed in a hands on manner, in the context of our own challenges in the Pacific Northwest.

So the best in 2014, and may all your orchids reward you in the coming year,

Margaret Prat



Executive/Board of Directors

President : Margaret Prat

1st VP: Calvin Wong

2nd VP: Ryan Young

Secretary: Barbara Cable

Treasurer: Eric Nilsen

Past President: Koichi Nakatani

Director 1 : Jennifer Fabre

Director 2 : Keith Willett

Director 3 : Ray Sword

Director 4 : Patrick Milligen

Volunteer/Committees

Bloedel Committee: Radina Jevdevic

Membership Committee: Patrick Milligen

Prize Draws: Margaret Elvidge

Kitchen: Marilyn Lew & Maureen Burke

BCCoGC Rep: Bill & Carla Bischoff

Library: Shohreh Alimoradi

COC/AOS Rep: vacant

Web Master: Gideon Singer

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 42025, Marpole PRO,

Vancouver, BC, V6P 6S6

Newsletter: Holly Martin

Please send your contributions to:

neesabelle@hotmail.com

Did you know? ...Our website has a Marketplace where you can find vendors who not only sell the plants we all love but also lots of the supplies we need to help them grow.

If you're looking for a little information on growing these magnificent plants, we also have an Orchid Basics section. In it, you will find culture sheets and even some instructional videos.

It's definitely worth checking out!



Did you know? Since Bloedel Conservatory has been integrated with VanDusen Gardens, an annual membership at the latter garden entitles you to entry at Bloedel - perfect for those rainy days, or those days where you crave an exotic escape ...

Christmas Social & Annual Auction

27 November 2013

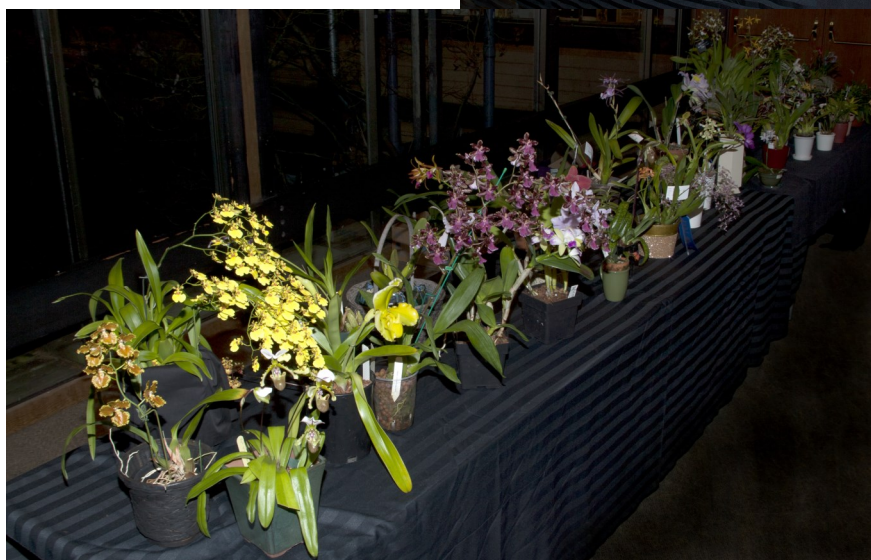
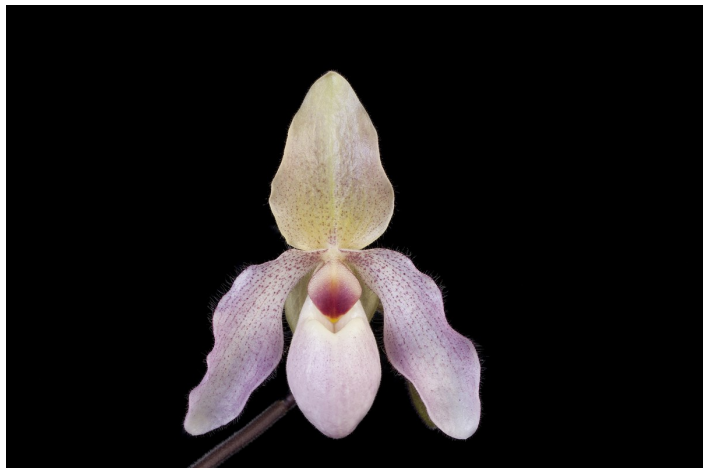


Photo Credits: The top three photos were taken by Ed Higham and the bottom left photo was taken by Whitney Martin.



FVOS Show & AOS PNWJC

1 November 2013



Paphiopedilum Gina Short 'Serenity', HCC/AOS 76pts
(Paph. Pinocchio x Paph. delenatii)
Exhibitor: Anne MacDonald



Paphiopedilum Hsinying Alien 'Alicia', HCC/AOS 79pts
(Paph. Raisin Pie 'Hsinying' x Paph. Supersuk 'Eureka')
Exhibitor: Yolanda Breck



Paphiopedilum Temptation 'Anne-Marie', AM/AOS 86pts,
Paph. kolopakingii x Paph. philippinense),
Exhibitor: Poul Hansen

FVOS Show & AOS PNWJC

1 November 2013 (cont'd)



Phragmipedium Baconis 'Janine' HCC/AOS 78pts
(Phrag. Conchiferum x Phrag. schlimii)
Exhibitor: Yolanda Breck

Polystachya anceps 'Eva-Mae Wouters'
CHM/AOS 80pts
Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids
Note: award is provisional pending species identification



All Photographs by Judith E. Higham
If you would like a picture of your plant, please email
Judy and she will gladly email you the file
Higham@shaw.ca

AOS PNWJC

14 December 2013



Maxillaria sophronitis 'Linda Jean' CCM/AOS 84pts
Exhibitor: Don Mills



Judges in attendance:

Betty Berthiaume
David Edgley
Poul Hansen
Abu Salleh
Wayne Louie
Ingrid Ostrander
Russ Volker
Deb Ward
Calvin Wong
Margaret Pratt (student)
Ryan Young (student)

Photographer:

Judith Higham

The AOS Pacific Northwest Judging Center (Richmond) meets every second Saturday of the month, at 12:00 noon, at the Sea Island Community Centre, 7140 Miller Road, Richmond B.C. (Chair: Russ Volker, 604-465-8374, russvolker@gmail.com)

Please note that for the PNWJC (Richmond) monthly judging in MARCH 2014, instead of the usual date, time and place, the meeting will be held on SATURDAY March 8, 2014 at 1:00pm at Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Road, Victoria, BC in conjunction with the Victoria Orchid Society show judging. (there will NOT be a separate monthly judging at the Sea Island Community Centre on March 8).

Please note that for the PNWJC (Richmond) monthly judging in APRIL 2014, instead of the usual date, time and place, the meeting will be held on FRIDAY April 11, 2014 at 1:00pm at the Nanaimo North Town Centre, formerly Rutherford Mall (4750 Rutherford Road, Nanaimo, BC) in conjunction with the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society show judging. (there will NOT be a separate monthly judging at the Sea Island Community Centre on April 12).

Members Showcase: Carla Bischoff's Greenhouse

One of our members was kind enough to share with us some photos of the many beautiful orchids currently blooming in her greenhouse. Carla Bischoff says this is the time of year that she and her husband have the most plants in bloom and she thinks it has to do with the temperature swings. In Carla's own words: "What a way to start the New Year!"



BC Maikai x Mayumi (AM/AOS)

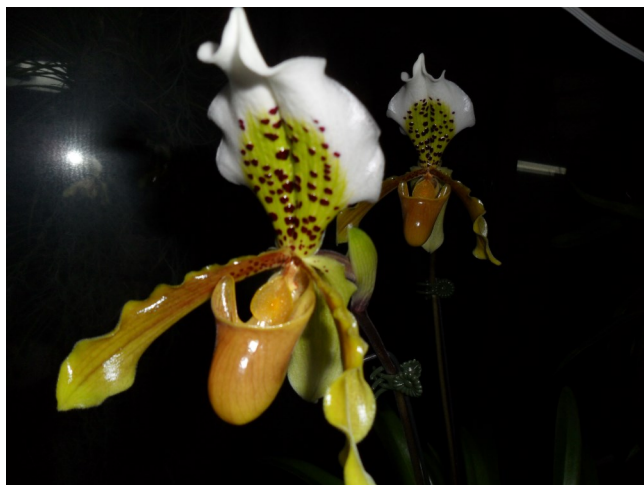


Brassavola grande

Maxillaria sophronitis



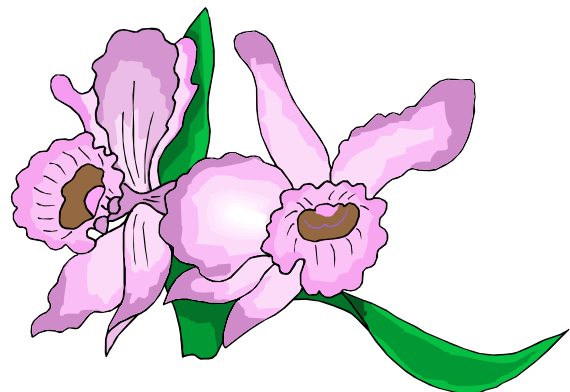
Members Showcase: Carla Bischoff's Greenhouse (cont'd)



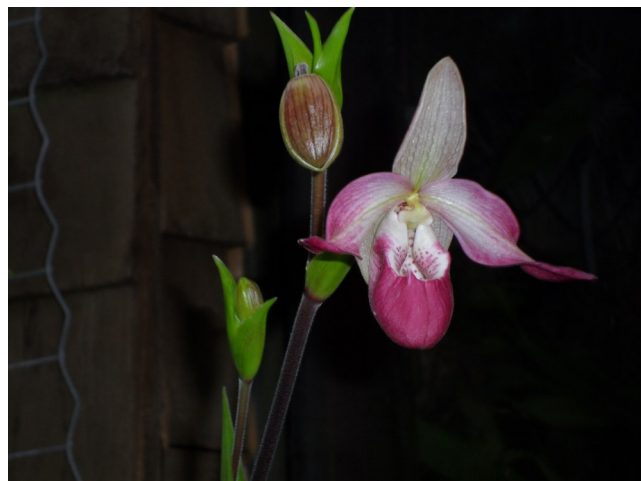
Paph insignee



Paph spicerianum Huron



Phrag sedenii



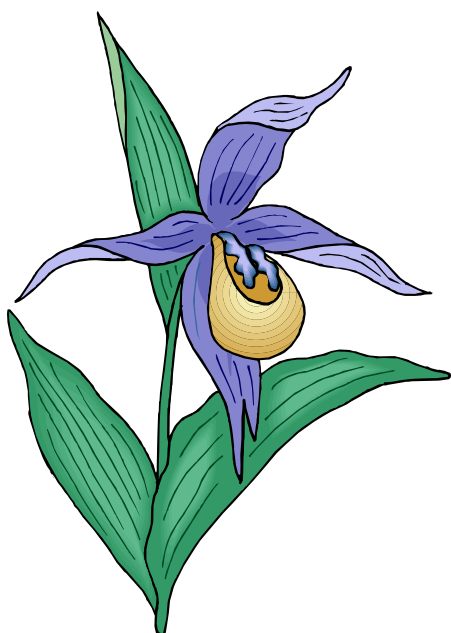
Members Showcase: Carla Bischoff's Greenhouse (cont'd)



From our garden: New Years Day morning, the sky over our greenhouse. I take it as a sign of good luck for the coming year.



Hamamelis Jelena (also known as Witch Hazel) - the first blooming bush of the year.



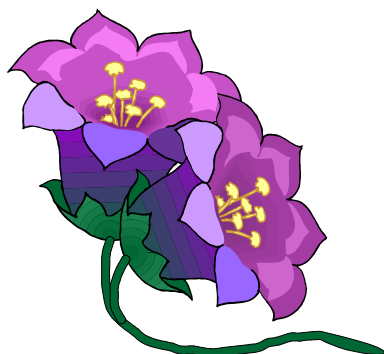
Members Showcase: Carla Bischoff's Greenhouse (cont'd)



Sophronitis coccinea "Rotkappchen"

Interesting Fact:

Carla tells me that "Rotkappchen" means "Little Red Riding Hood" in German! Like the Fairy Tale character!



Some Fragrant Orchids I Can Recommend

By Margaret Prat

Like most people, I was attracted to orchids because of their wonderful colours and their delightful inflorescences. I did not know when I began my orchidophile journey that many orchids also have scent. I believe I discovered this when I was visiting my sister in Ottawa, who had a wonderful *Zygopetalum* hybrid in flower - the fragrance was intoxicating. In April 2003, I attended the Ottawa Orchid Show, which has a section where exhibitors can enter their orchids to be judged on fragrance. This was a very popular display with the crowd who attended the show, but I was uncertain on how they judged the relative merits of scent.

Once I was hooked on having my orchids do double duty (beauty and scent), I pored over long lists on the internet and in books. While there are many orchids that have a nice scent, not all of these olfactory winners scatter those molecules far and wide. I particularly like an orchid whose perfume will be apparent to someone who is within a one metre radius. Some orchids will give off a lovely aroma to a whole room - in fact, some orchids have such a powerful scent that it can be overwhelming in a small confined space (e.g. a car). Hence the orchids I present below make the grade for bringing their luscious smell to a wide audience. Remember however, that not all people have the same sensitivity to the same smells, nor do they find a given scent to be unanimously pleasant. Also, most orchids have a fixed period when they are fragrant: mid day, all day, or only at night. And some won't smell if the room is not warm enough!

I would like to share my own modest experience of what I have found rewarding under my growing conditions in the Pacific Northwest. And since I mostly grow indoors under lights (no greenhouse for me), I favour plants that are smaller in stature and have a good foliage to flower ratio. As I have high light areas in my growing space, there are some *Cattleya* alliance orchids that are so worthwhile that I will sacrifice the space, in spite of their size.

I am particularly fond of *Miltonias*, also known as the Pansy Orchid.



They were among the first orchids I bought once I felt confident after my success with Phalaenopsis. These Miltonias as I grew as windowsill orchids in a South window (with lots of shading in the brighter months!) very successfully. I had read that they liked their roots to be moist, so when they were in their fine bark mix, I would spray them daily before going to work. I have since discovered that the sphagnum moss + styrofoam mix (sometimes fine bark is added, but this does not seem essential) works very well. Miltonias are my favourite for scent, flower longevity, and crystalline texture - they are so perfect for those up close areas of daily living (they are perched on the windowsill above my sink when they are in flower - my consolation prize for doing the dishes). The scents vary from hybrid to hybrid- you have to try them out to know. Although some Miltonias do not have scent, most will. I have not found Miltonias too difficult to grow, especially since I switched to my new moss based mixture - keep those roots moist, in a loose mix - they still require the air at the roots that most orchids love. They are prone to infestations of spider mites, which happens most frequently with dry conditions - humid conditions, regular washing of the leaves, and if need be, spraying with Safer soap should keep them happy. And Miltonias do not like to be hot in the summer, so keep them in a cooler position in the summer and provide that all important air circulation.

Recently, I have learned to flower *Dendrobium kingianum* on a reliable basis, and I have been rewarded with a multitude of sweetly scented flowers.



By far, these Dendrobiums are some of the easiest plants to grow if you have an outdoor space: lots of filtered light outside in the summer, lots of air, and good drainage. They naturally grow as lithophytic orchids, i.e. in rocky soil, or clinging to rocky outcrops, hence the requirement for good drainage; they are a good candidate for semi hydroponic growing. In the summer, they need to be watered regularly (and don't forget that all important fertilizer), but the beauty is that in the winter, they prefer it cold, with lots of judicious neglect. I finally managed to flower them reliably when my better half put up some grow lights in our unheated garage, about 10C in the winter. During their "dormant" season, I give them a sprinkling of water (no fertilizer) every 2 weeks. Once I can see the blooms growing, I bring the *Dendrobium kingianum* into the warm, bright room where all my orchids are growing. Previously, I had tried to grow these wonderful orchids in my mixed orchid collection, and I inevitably would get lots of keikis (baby orchids - great to give away!), but few - if any - blooms.

*Dendrobium kingianum*s can take up to freezing, and lots of neglect - I was told that someone had forgotten a small keiki in their car during a whole 3 months in the Pacific Northwest winter, and the keiki survived. Now that is my kind of hardy orchid; it may be possible to keep these orchids on some Vancouver balconies, with a little protection. I have never tried.

As *Dendrobium kingianum*s have many inflorescences, the blooming period will be 3-4 weeks. The scent is quite sweet, and certainly noticeable. In my estimation, a worthwhile orchid. Please note that in our October 2013 newsletter, there was an excellent article on *Dendrobium kingianum*.

Another one of my favourite scented orchids are *Oncidium Twinkle*. These are small sized *Oncidium*s (grown in 10 cm pots or smaller) that produce a multitude of small delicate, fragrant flowers. There are many colors, ranging from cream to red. These *Oncidium*s also have fine roots, and do well (for me) in the moss + styrofoam mixture, keeping the roots moist. They regularly flower for me in the winter, and, like the *Dendrobium kingianum*s, the multitude of small flowers means several weeks of fragrance - they take up so little space, they are a very worthwhile addition to any collection.



Of course, in the larger *Oncidium* category, there is the well known *Oncidium Sharry Baby*, that has a vanilla/chocolate scent that is very seductive - but leaf size here is 25 cm, and the floral spray can be up to one metre for a well grown plant. It requires a lot more space and light than the *Oncidium Twinkle* hybrids. And yes, I own one *Oncidium Sharry Baby*, because it is such a deliciously fragrant orchid.



Coming to the *Cattleya* alliance, here is where I break my rule of small size. A VOS member kindly gave me a *Prosthecea radiatum* when he repotted his specimen plant. Now, if you like a sweet (very sweet!) floral scent, then this is an orchid for you!!! Even if only one pseudobulb is flowering, the perfume is detectable from far away. And the flowers are very, very long lasting, as they have a firm, waxy texture; I estimate that the flowering spike is good for 4-6 weeks. This orchid can flower repeatedly in the year, given the right growing conditions: good bright light, good drainage, and once a week watering. I grow my plant in a semi-hydroponic medium.



I completely broke my rule for small size when I purchased a large plant of Brassavola Little Stars (Brassavola Nodosa x Brassavola Cordata). This is a plant that requires very high light, very good drainage (lives in lava rock, both because this provides excellent drainage and lava rocks are heavy enough to hold the stiff foliage upright on such a large plant). It blooms in February and March, and is only scented at night. But the smell permeates several rooms, and is so stunning. The flowers are pretty too!



In closing, I would like to mention one of my favourite scented orchids: *Zygopetalum intermedium*. I am not very skilled at growing this orchid, and I seem to lose many leaves every year. In spite of my lack of skill, it has given me one floral shoot every year, with 4-5 flowers. To my mind, it has the most enchanting smell, something like a cross between narcissus and lily of the valley, and the smell can permeate a whole room. I would certainly like to learn how to grow it better, but I have never regretted purchasing this orchid from a long time VOS member. Not all *Zygopetalum* hybrids smell, so best to buy the above named species if you want a scented orchid. And the flowers have lovely, exotic markings, a bonus in my mind.



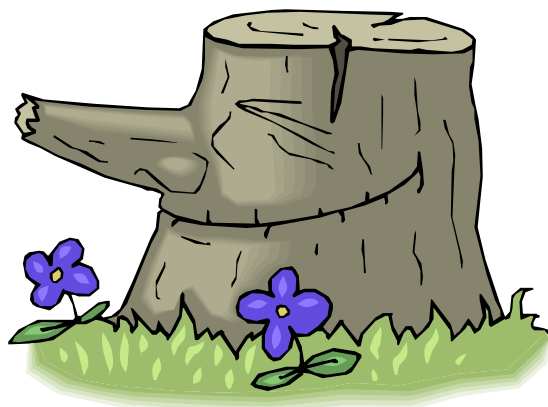


So for all those who want to attempt to grow scented orchids, I wish you many happy perfume filled days....



Every month show off your Orchids at our meeting!

If you would like to volunteer on the monthly judging team, just ask !



Any members that would like to submit photos of their orchids for inclusion in Orchiflora, please contact Holly Martin at: neesabelle@hotmail.com

Be sure to include the name of your plant(s) in your email!

Pacific Northwest Judging Center (PNWJC) meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at Sea Island Community Center, 7140 Miller road, Richmond, B.C. at noon. Everyone is welcome to bring in their orchids for consideration by the American Orchid Society Judges. Why attend? This an opportunity to see more orchids, and many orchids of award quality. The judging center serves the provinces of Western Canada, and orchids are brought in from far and wide. You will learn about how an orchid is evaluated for an award. Small, friendly atmosphere. If you love orchids, this is one more opportunity to indulge.



January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Date	Event
Jan 22	Meeting—Speaker: Judy Higham talking about photographing orchids

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

Date	Event
Feb 10	Culture Class—Dividing & propagating orchids
Feb 26	Meeting—Speaker: Margaret Prat talking about her recent trip to Ecuador

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30	31					

Date	Event
March 1—2	Mount Baker Orchid Society Show
March 8—9	Victoria Orchid Society Show & Sale (PNWJC judging on the 8th!)
March 10	Culture Class—Repotting (bring your plants!)
March 21—23	Vancouver Orchid Society Show & Sale (including Preview Party on 21st)

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Date	Event
April 4—6	Orchid Society of Alberta 37th Annual Show & Sale
April 11	Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show (PNWJC judging too!)
April 19—20	Ottawa Orchid Society Show & Sale

Orchid Society of Alberta
Orchid Fair 2014
37th Annual Show & Sale

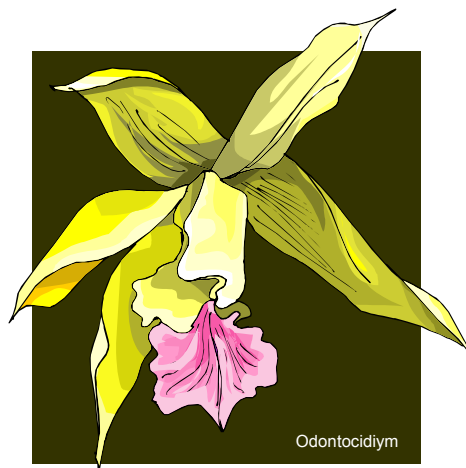
New Location
the **Enjoy Centre**
101 Riel Drive
St. Albert, Alberta

New Date
Friday April 4 - Noon to 8 PM
Saturday April 5 - 10 AM to 5 PM
Sunday April 6 - 10 AM to 4 PM



Free Parking
Admission \$10 - Under 12 free
Like us on Facebook - *Orchid Society of Alberta*
www.orchidsalberta.com

All VOS members please take advantage of your library, there are a lot of great books in our collection.



For Sale
If any member would like to post items for sale, please contact Holly
Email at: neesa-belle@hotmail.com

Vancouver Orchid Society

PO Box 42025, Marpole PRO
Vancouver, BC, V6P 6S6

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Annual membership fee is **\$30.00 per household (one or two adults); \$20 for Students** – from January to December

NEW MEMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

(Primary Member) Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

(Co-member) Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: () _____ E-mail Address: _____

Payment Method Cash Cheque
please make cheque payable to: **The Vancouver Orchid Society**

Permission to publish the following in Membership Directory?

E-mail Phone # Address: _____

The membership directory will be provided to current members for society business only as per the Personal Information Privacy Act.

Newsletter

Our monthly newsletters in full colour will be e-mailed monthly and are also available through our website at www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca. Newsletters will only be postal mailed upon request.

Volunteering

We are a volunteer organization. All members are encouraged and expected to volunteer at least once a year. Please indicate the areas which you will be able to assist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Show Planning	How much time can you volunteer (approximate)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Raffle	<input type="checkbox"/> Show Setup		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 hours a year
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Show Security		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 hours a month
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Show Admissions		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 hours a week
<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Show Displays		<input type="checkbox"/> anytime, just ask me!

Please tell us a little bit about what kind of orchids you grow and how you grow them.

What types of orchids do you grow (or want to grow)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Cattleya Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrobiums	<input type="checkbox"/> Cymbidiums
<input type="checkbox"/> Oncidium Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/> Paphiopedilums	<input type="checkbox"/> Miltoniopsis
<input type="checkbox"/> Phalaenopsis Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/> Phragmipedium	<input type="checkbox"/> Temperate (outdoor) orchids
<input type="checkbox"/> Vanda Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/> Cyripedium	<input type="checkbox"/> Others

Where do you grow them?

<input type="checkbox"/> Windowsill	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Under Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor (climate control)	

How many orchids do you have? under 20 20-50 51-100 101-200 over 200

What kind of programs or speakers are you interested in seeing?

How did you hear about the VOS?:

Signature _____ Date _____