Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Newsletter
April 2014

***Oncidium* Island Red 'Jean' HCC/AOS 77pts (*Onc.* Trixon x *Onc.* Actrix)**
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Meetings are held September through June on a Saturday at the Harewood Activity Centre, 195 Fourth Street, Nanaimo, in the hall on the second floor, doors open at 11:30, with the business meeting starting at 12:00 noon.

<u>Coming Meeting Dates:</u> April 26, May 24, June 21, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 22, Dec. 6.

Program for

Cypripediums in your Garden
With Calvin Wong of Vancouver

<u>Coming Events:</u>

CVIOS Summer Picnic time and place to be announced
Fraser Valley Show and Sale Oct/Nov 2014

Editorial:

The last of the shows has now past and we can look forward to hopefully a little less movement of our plants. The weather is warming so we should be looking at regulating the temperature around our plants. Some of you will be looking at moving your plants out into the fresher air for the warmer months but do not rush the move. There could still be light frosts and the rains will remain cold for at least the next month and a half. A safe place outside must provide dappled shade in the hottest part of the days but most plants will enjoy morning sun. Many genera will enjoy the fresh air but keep in touch with the weather. We have had very cold Junes lately and things like Phalaenopsis should be brought back inside if that happens again. The larger Cattleya types and all the cooler growing genera grow sturdier new growths outside. Plants like Coelogyne cristata and Standard Cymbidiums can stay out until October some time and even until the first frost. But other genera should be back inside sometime in early September after a good debugging, deslugging and desowbugging, all of which love to dwell in the pots and come out to chew.

Cheers Mike

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CVIOS General Meeting
March 15, 2014

Shelley called the meeting to order at 12:05 with 29 members present, including newmembers Suzanne, John and Christian.

Connie moved that the minutes of our February 22 meeting be accepted as published in the newsletter, Bev seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joann gave a summary of expenses and revenues for January and indicated the February report will be delayed until next month. She added that the bag draw in February added $95 to our general account. Sue moved acceptance of Joann's report and Bryan seconded.

Shows: Victoria - Laurie thanked the 9 members who sent a total of 47 plants for the CVIOS display to the Victoria show including: Don and Nancy, Shelley, Donna, Alexey, Shirley, Margaret, Dora, Mike and Laurie. Thank you also to the winning team (Don and Nancy, Donna, Angie, Laurie and Maureen who transported plants and props, set up our display and registered our plants. Their efforts were very much appreciated and resulted in us receiving the award for best visiting orchid society display. Our members received, on our display, 5 blue ribbons, 21 red ribbons and 6 white ribbons along with 2 AOS nominations for Alexey's Phal. parisii and Shelley's Aerangis citrata.

Bryan had his own display and received 4 blue ribbons, 3 red and 3 white. He also received a 'best in class', the COC award for best miniature orchid in the show and an AOS nomination for his orchid, Telipogon ariasii. He also received a second AOS nomination for his orchid, Restripia guttulata "Willow Pond"

Vancouver Show - Mike will be transporting our plants to the show and doing our display. Plants can be dropped off at Mike's, Laurie's or Shelley's by Wednesday March 20, as Mike will be collecting them along with Shelley's van to transport the plants to the show on Thursday. Check the Vancouver web site for details of the show.

Our show - Will be: April 11,12 and 13 at Nanaimo North Town Centre Angie brought sign-up sheets for volunteers and donations for 'best of class awards' along with posters to help us advertise the show. She encouraged everyone to participate by helping with judging, taking a turn at the raffle/information table or just being there to chat with people about orchids and our group. It is important that everyone bring their blooming orchids, so that we can have a spectacular display at the show. Table set up will begin on Thursday the 10th around noon with display set up and registration of orchids to follow.

President's Report: Shelley reminded everyone that we will be having a silent auction of 'Plants only' (orchids and others) at our April meeting on the 26th. With Mikes announcement that after 20 years of doing the newsletter he will not be letting his name stand as newsletter editor, Shelley asked us to think about the elections that are coming in June and consider becoming a member of the Executive. To date we know that both Bryan and Shelley will also not be letting their names stand for current positions of Programs and President.

Sue pointed out that Safeway in Duncan once again has a large selection of healthy Miltoniopsis orchids for sale.

Membership: Vivian gave us the results of our Question of the month last month – Why do we grow orchids? This month she asks - How many have an 'Optimist Plant' (one you keep buying even though it keeps dying on you)?

Programs: April – Calvin Wong (Cypripediums in the garden))
May - Mario Farrusi (Masdevallias ?)
June - ?

Newsletter: Mike let us know he was no longer going to be newsletter editor next year but would be happy to show whomever takes on the job the ropes. Maureen asked if Mike would include some information in an upcoming newsletter concerning which orchids can be put outside.

Refreshments: We need people to sign up for May and June.
Thanks in March to Clementine, Donna, Sue, Laurie, Margaret and Joann
Reminders for April to Connie, Nancy, Julia and Mum

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Following our tour of the plants on our show tables, and lunch Pat van Adrichem brought us up to date with all the latest tips on Phalaenopsis culture.

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CATTLEYA WALKERIANA, AN IMPORTANT AND USEFUL SPECIES IN MODERN BREEDING

ALAN KOCH

Alan Koch, a former Los Angeles police officer, has been raising orchids since 1969. *Starting as most hobbyists with a mixture of genera, he began to hybridize cattleyas in* 1976. *Two years later, because of limited growing space, he concentrated on the miniature types. Alan, having received his botanical training at Sacramento State College and Pepperdine University, approaches his hybridizing and growing in a very scientific manner at his company, Gold Country Orchids.*

One hundred years ago, the first hybrid using *Cattleya walkeriana* was registered by the firm of Veitch and Sons. That cross, C. *mossiae* x C. *walkeriana,* produced C. Eros. This was just the beginning and today, the benefits of using this fabulous species from Brazil are more apparent than ever.

***CattIeya walkeriana* var. *alba* 'Sierra Storm' AM/ AOS**

History and Distribution

Cattleya walkeriana was discovered by George Gardner in 1839 or 1840 in the state of Bahia, Brazil. Gardner found the plant growing on a small limb of a tree overhanging a tributary of the Rio San Francisco, and named it after his assistant and traveling companion, Edward Walker. Gardner's findings were first reported in the *London Journal of Botany* in 1843. Lindley reported it in 1847 as C. *bulbosa.* Today, C. *bulbosa* is recognized as a variety of C. *walkeriana,* with stout pseudobulbs and darker flowers than the type.

Cattleya walkeriana has one of the broadest distributions of the many cattleyas in Brazil. It is found in the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo and Goias, from near sea level to nearly 6,000 feet in elevation. It is found growing epiphytically on small limbs near streams and growing xerophytically on granite domes. Since C. *walkeriana* has such a wide distribution in nature, it is very adaptable in cultivation and passes this trait along to its progeny in breeding.

Cattleya walkeriana var. *alba* 'Pendentive' AM/AOS is one of the most famous of all the walkerianas. There has been a shadow cast on this plant in that it sometimes flowers from leafless pseudobulbs, which is typical for the species, and at other times flowers from the apex of a leafed pseudobulb. It is because of this tendency to bloom from a leafed pseudobulb that many consider this to, be C. *xdolosa,* a natural hybrid of C. *walkeriana* and C. *loddigesii.* In defense of 'Pendentive,' it was produced from a population of a selfing of C. *walkeriana* var. *alba* 'Orchidglade' FCC/AOS. The clone 'Orchidglade' has never been doubted as a true C. *walkeriana* since it flowers from a leafless pseudobulb. It is also important to note that plants of 'Pendentive' that are mounted on cork limbs and

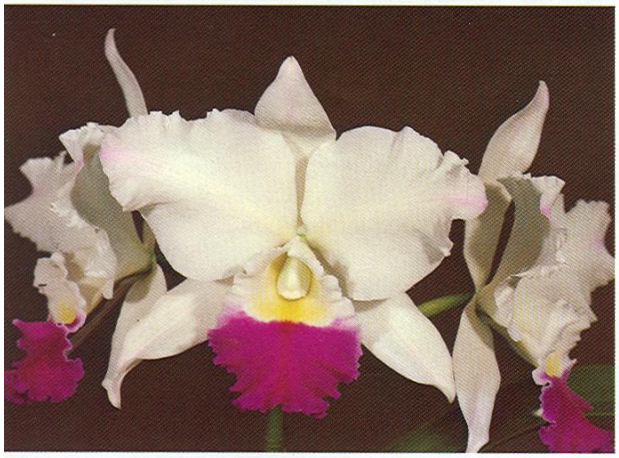
hung high in the greenhouse always flower from a leafless pseudobulb. The clones of 'Pendentive' grown on the bench in pots, however, flower in both manners.

Sophrolaeliocattleya Linda Ann 'Top Notch' HCC/AOS
(*C. walkeriana* × *Sl.* Psyche)

Photograph: Richard E. Fleig

Laeliocattleya Love Knot 'Little Sweetheart' HCC/AOS
(*L. sincorana* × *C. walkeriana*)

Photograph: Richard E. Fleig



Laeliocattleya Little Oliver 'Distinction' HCC/AOS
(*Lc.* Stephen Oliver Fouracker × *C. walkeriana*)

Photograph: Richard E. Fleig

Laeliocattleya Mini Purple 'Bonanza' AM/AOS
(*L. pumila* × *C. walkeriana*)

Photograph: Richard E. Fleig

Culture

In our nursery, C. *walkeriana* is grown either mounted or in baskets. Observing the way the plants grow *in situ* reveals that one cultural constant is good drainage. The plants grow in a wide range of temperature and light differential. The key to successfully raising these plants seems to be to dry them quickly between waterings. When grown in pots, we typically use clay and a coarse mix that will allow for this prompt drying. Most walkerianas are not fussy, with the exception of the few that come from the higher elevations which can be a bit tricky. The dark forms that have been collected near the 6,000 foot level, such as C. *walkeriana* 'Jungle Queen,' tend to be difficult to flower unless placed in a basket without media at the cool end of the greenhouse in 4,000 to 4,500 footcandles of light. When grown under these conditions, 'Jungle Queen' flowers well every year.

The Hybrids

Although C. *walkeriana* is magnificent in its own right, the best attribute of this plant is its use as a parent. These fabulous plants, with their large, fragrant flowers on clean, compact plants, make a perfect parent for the modern *Cattleya* grower. As an additional benefit, the plants will typically bloom in both the spring and the fall. Its hybrids have a floriferous quality that is hard to beat, with good-sized, fragrant flowers on compact plants. The use of C. *walkeriana* as a parent has increased greatly in the last few years. In fact, the last ten years have produced more *walkeriana* hybrids than the first ninety years of its discovery.

Until 1965 there was only one hybrid of note, which was *Brassocattleya* Cynthia, C. *walkeriana* x *B. digbyana,* registered in 1917. The remake of this hybrid by Stewart Orchids in the 1970s has had a great impact and several fine clones of this grex are available today from Stewarts. *Brassocattleya* Cynthia has five-inch clean, waxy pink flowers of full shape that are very fragrant. It will flower two to three times a year if grown in sufficient light.

In 1965, the Rev. M. Yamada of Hawaii registered *Laeliocattleya* Mini Purple, L. *pumila* x C. *walkeriana. Laeliocattleya* Mini Purple has become a very important parent also, with four-inch to five-inch dark lavender flowers on compact plants that flower twice a year. There are at least twenty other famous crosses that the readers would recognize, most notably *Laeliocattleya* Love Knot, which is a cross of C. *walkeriana* and L. *sincorana,* registered by Miura in 1984. This hybrid captures the true spirit of its parents and we have remade this cross three times in our nursery, all with superb results. The cross yields compact plants that will bear up to three four-inch to five-inch pink flowers per inflorescence with dark-lavender lips. The flowers are fragrant and long-lasting, and the plants bloom two or three times a year.

What will the future bring? In our nursery alone, we have over twenty-five crosses using C. *walkeriana* as a parent. In Hawaii, the use of C. *walkeriana* has increased greatly over the past ten years and I am confident that the best is yet to come from this species in the future.

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Botrytis On *Phalaenopsis* Blooms - And How To Prevent It

Bob Gordon

This was the topic of a seminar at Orchid Expo, 88 in Caloundra, Queensland in September, 1988. This article is based on part of that discussion. The best small show I've seen, by the way.

The fungus *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. occurs most commonly in cool, damp, and low-light conditions in greenhouse culture and usually is not a problem when ambient relative humidity stays below 65%. For many phal growers keeping humidity in their growing areas below 65% RH is a difficult, and often expensive, task. Fortunately, there are alternatives.

The disease does not harm the plant, but will ruin flowers because the blight cannot be removed from the blooms without scraping. Who among us has not lost an award-winning spray of phalaenopsis blooms to . . . the tiny, rotten little beast. . . *Botrytis* on one or more blooms? I can recall thinking the last time it happened to me that it was much like the tragedy of having one little spoonful of garbage in a whole barrel of premium wine: all garbage!

Botrytis in its very early stages on blooms can be stopped by spraying the affected flowers (and its neighbors) with a solution of a general purpose antiseptic such as Physan (Consan), R-D-20 or

Naccosan B-60, one teaspoon per gallon. A vigorous spray will sometimes remove all traces of the *Botrytis.* All three agents have identical formulation.

Seminar participant's suggested means to prevent the proliferation of *Botrytis* included the following:

1. Increase air circulation.
2. Increase greenhouse temperature.
3. Use a wetting agent to speed up dispersion of standing water.
4. Use a systemic fungicide on the plants.
5. Use a bleach or strong contact fungicide spray on persistently wet areas (from eyelevel down) in the greenhouse.

Let's look at each of these:

Increase Air Circulation

The quickest and easiest means of *Botrytis* control is to turn up the air circulation by increasing the speed of fans already in use or adding new ones.

In this situation, the beauty of the large, slow-turning ceiling or 'Casbah' fans can be seen. They are relatively cheap, efficient and move very large quantities of air very quietly. Fans are needed in any phalaenopsis growing area to move air when nature does not provide adequate movement. You won't have any problems with the *Botrytis* spores if they're going by your phals at 30 miles an hour. Most of these fans have three speeds and normally are used in the low or medium range, saving the high speeds for the high liability times. If one of these honeys makes you happy, you'll be ecstatic with two. During the *Botrytis* season, better you should have too much air movement than not enough; 30 miles an hour, remember?

If you're heating your growing area, you will find the increase in air movement will lower your heating bill, too. Did that one get your attention? The 'homogenization' of the air breaks up layering and eliminates hot and cold spots. Same as in your home. Money in the bank. Ask any heating engineer.

Small clip-on fans or ones used to cool your feet during the summer can find year round use here, too. Aim them over the top of the flower spikes, but not by much. When they sway gently in their part of the breeze, you know you're in the right range.

For growers in mild climates who don't heat, the fans may be the only method other than chemical to prevent *Botrytis* damage. If you are relying on the fan method, it might be a good idea to consider two units or whatever is necessary to give double the normally needed air movement.

Direct the air stream upward away from the plants. The plants directly below would be dried out before any other and suffer as a result.

Increase Greenhouse Temperature

If you heat your growing area, a quick and positive (but expensive) means of lowering the relative humidity is to turn up the thermostat. If the high humidity situation was of short-term nature, like when it's sundown and the plants are still wet, this can be a very effective solution to the problem. Long-term, you're going to feel the bite if raising the temp is the only step you take.

A more efficient method might be to combine raising the temperature a little with increasing the air movement. Whatever your purse will permit.

If the problem of high humidity arises every night during the winter, an automatic 'set-back' thermostat might be in order. It is not necessary to keep the temperature elevated all night long, so

adjust the set-back for 4:00 or 5:00am. and by the time the humidity is back up, the sun will be up and the problem will go away. . . if it's a sunny day, of course.

It's going to be tough to get the desired control this way along the maritime belt or within 5 miles of the ocean or large lake shoreline, but if added heat along with air movement are combined with the chemical tools we have, it can be done fairly inexpensively. (What the hell, you don't want to leave it *all* to your kids, do you? Teaches them bad habits. Push that thermostat up !)

Use A Wetting Agent To Speed Up Drying

Growers can speed up the drying process by spraying the plants with a solution of Physan (or generic equivalents) after watering. In this instance, it is the detergent content of the Physan that is going to do the job we want done. It causes' sheeting' action and more rapid draining of surface water.

A 'spreader-sticker' agent (or detergent) will do the job just as well, but why bother with still another expensive product when one will do both jobs? (Please don't read this as a license to use household detergent for this purpose. It is *not* a good idea.) Besides, the bactericidal quality in the Physan should almost completely eliminate the *Pseudomonas cattleyae* pathogens that can cause crown rot . . . for that night, at least.

Caution: Do not overdo this practice. Physan can cause a toxic reaction in orchids if used regularly, so should be used only when cool, gloomy weather persists or in similar situations.

Use A Systemic Fungicide

Because many topical fungicides mar or deface phalaenopsis blooms, a systemic form is usually preferred for our purposes.

Botrytis spores germinate on the surface of the flower and the damage begins. If a systemic fungicide is present when the process of germination begins, the fungus is killed shortly after it intrudes into the plant's nutritional system and sucks up the poisoned sap. And the process is stopped. No germination, no black *Botrytis* spots. A flower which has been treated with a systemic fungicide can be heard to say to the *Botrytis* spore, "Go ahead, make my day!"

Benlate (Benomyl, Tersan 1991) has long been regarded as the standard control for *Botrytis.* and with good reason; it does an excellent job. Ornalin 50 WP (Ronilon) is a topical agent, but works very well and is specific for *Botrytis.* A regular program of application during periods of high liability to *Botrytis* damage is one of the more positive means of control. Combined with the measures mentioned above and those to follow, these chemical tools should be in every phal grower's bag of tricks.

Some growers spray a fine mist of the Benlate (1 tsp. per gal.) over the tops of the flowers during the humid, rainy season along the east, west and Gulf coasts. One grower suggested spraying trees and shrubs around greenhouse or growing areas to cut down on the local population *before* they get on the plants. Sounds like a couple of good ideas; which brings us to our last category of preventive actions.

Spray The Surrounding Areas

The object is to wipe out the bad stuff before it gets to the plants. Spray on, around and under the benches or staging with household bleach or a strong fungicide such as Kocide 101. Kocide is strongly recommended in this regard because it is very effective on bacteria and fungi, is persistent (lasts from 4 to 6 weeks per application), and last, but certainly not least, it's cheap.

More: Sprinkle Kocide 101 on walkways in the greenhouse and it will eliminate slippery algae for the same 4 - 6 weeks. If that isn't enough, it also discourages slugs and snails. They don't like the copper.

In Conclusion

While anyone of these recommended measures might solve one grower's problem with *Botrytis*, a sound program of disease control would include all five. Moving to the California desert couldn't hurt, either.

Bob Gordon 276 East Shamrock Rialto, CA 92376

Orchid Digest, Jan.Feb.Mar. 19990

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The Philippine Angraecum

By Alex D. Hawkes

Angraecum philippinente Ames. **From a plant in the collection of Margaret Ilgenfritz.**

Within the past few years, a considerable number of otchidaceous rarities have been made available to connoisseur collectors in this country, through the admirable efforts of several of our more enterprising commercial dealers. One among these, which has long intrigued me is now available, at varying prices, from at least three concerns in the U.S.A. This is *Angraecum philippinense,* a delectable dwarf plant with proportionately huge white, orange-centered blossoms.

Until recently, this has been an orchid of considerable desirability which was essentially unknown in cultivation outside of its native haunts. Though known to science for some sixty years, too, remarkably little has been written concerning it, and now that it can be acquired from reputable domestic sources, I believe some pertinent comments regarding it are in order.

Angraecum philippinense (not *"philippinensis,"* please note, a misspelling, which is singularly consistent in contemporary literature) is an anomaly, in that it is one of two species of *Angraecum* known to occur outside of Africa and adjacent insular groups. I very much suspect that, upon further critical study, this Philippine species (and possibly the other disjunct *Angraecum,* from Ceylon) will be shown to be referable to other generic aggregations, but for now we must consider it under that name.

Angraecum philippinense was described in the year 1907 by the late great American orchidologist, Oakes Ames (in *Philip, Jour. Sci.* 2, *Rot.:* 336.), the type specimen having been found by

Elmer Drew Merrill, "on forested slopes of Mt. Halcon, Mindoto, an epiphyte at about 2500 ft. alt." In subsequent publications, Ames discussed additional specimens, and extended the known range of the species to Luzon (Bontoc and Nueva Vizcaya), and mentioned that it occurs "on mountains, in the forest at 850 to 1,400 m. altitude."

A description of the plant would seem to be in order at this time, since the only available one is in a book by Ames (his *Orchidaceae* 3: 71, pl. 50. 1908.), which is now a rare item. The etching (or dry point?) at that place, incidentally, is a delight, by Professor Ames' wife, Blanche Ames.

Possessing very fleshy roots, the few leaves (usually two to four) are borne on a very abbreviated stem, so the entire plant rarely exceeds 2 ¼ inches in overall height, and is frequently half of that! The rather fleshy leaves are elliptic-oblong and obtuse in shape, and generally measure about 2-inches in length and ½ inch in breadth. Flowering-season appears to be confined to the winter months; the type was gathered, in bloom, in late November, but I have had the plant in blossom in late February here in South Florida. The flowers are produced, singly or in very few numbers, on stout, conspicuously winged peduncles to about l ½ inches long. Each blossom is supported on a white rather stocky pedicellate ovary upwards of an inch in length.

Individual flowers of this unique little *Angraecum* measure almost l ¾ inches across, hence almost over-shadowing the diminutive dimensions of the vegetative parts. With very broad, rounded sepals and petals, they are purest white, with a stripe on the labellum, which varies from yellow to orange in differing forms. The lip is three-lobed, the midlobe oblong and rounded at the tip, the lateral lobes somewhat shorter. This segment is prolonged into a slender spur with a curved tip, also white and measuring up to l ¼ inches long.

In my personal collection here in Coconut Grove, *Angraecum philippinense* thrives on a smallish cube of firm Guatemalan tree-fern fiber, onto which its sizeable roots have now tightly affixed themselves. I keep the specimen suspended on a wire framework with a variety of other choice epiphytes, under a mango tree, where it receives rather diffused light most of the day. During dry weather, it is watered daily, and if time permits, is given an accessory spraying as well. All of my orchids are fertilized as regularly as possible, generally about every two or three weeks.

I consider *Angraecum philippinense* to be an exceptionally attractive little orchid, one which will in time prove to be one of the most exciting novelties to be introduced into general cultivation in a long time! Connoisseur collectors. . . attention!

Orchid Digest, October 1967