



*Central Vancouver
Island Orchid Society
Newsletter
March 2016*

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Ang. Veitchii, Grown by Paramount Orchids, photographed by Judy Higham.

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.

Coming Meeting Dates: March 19, April 23, May 14, June 18, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19 and Dec 10

Program for for March 19th
"Dealing with Naughty Plants"

Bryan will be demonstrating techniques for taming savage plants

Coming Events:
Vancouver Show March 25-27

Editorial: Spring has sprung! I hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful sunny days (and ignoring the awful windy stormy ones!) For greenhouse growers it is time to think about some light shading for the sunny days, you don't want to get sunburn on any of your prized plants! Please remember the Vancouver show is the weekend after our meeting, so plants can be given to Mike at our meeting to be taken to the show.

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CVIOS General Meeting - February 16, 2016

Connie called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm with 25 members present and two guests, Tania and Dave.

Dora moved acceptance of the minutes of our January 23rd meeting, Bob 2nd the motion and motion carried.

Correspondence included the most recent AOS Bulletin and Orchid Digest along with the Botanus plant catalogue.

Joann presented the financial summaries of our accounts to the end of January. Shirley moved acceptance of her report and Mike seconded the motion.

Shows: Bryan reported we had 10 members send very good quality plants to the Victoria show and we did especially well in ribbon judging.

The Vancouver show will take place over the Easter weekend. Check the Vancouver website for details. Mike will be taking plants to the show and doing our display. He encouraged all members who have a blooming plant to send it for our display. Because Mike's vehicle has limited space he encouraged us to box our plants and tie them for transport. He offered to take plants home with him if we wished to bring them to our March meeting a week prior to the show. More will follow re drop off points, registration of plants etc at our meeting on the 19th.

Programs: Nancy indicated that Bryan would be doing the program in March, Lorne Henchka will be coming in May and Thomas Mirenda in June.

Membership: Mike will make copies of the Membership list so that all members can have a copy.

Refreshments: Thank you to Connie, Maureen, Joann and Bryan for bringing goodies and REMINDERS TO: Suzanne, Shirley, Nancy, Julia and Mary for March.

Don indicated that since our website name changed to .org there has been an extraordinary number of hits and it seems to be very popular with school children.

Our meeting adjourned at 12:35 followed by Mike's tips on using pumice as a growing medium and re-potting (potting on) orchids in pumice. Alexey explained the experimental growing system he would like us to try with the 3 Masd. Molly Lollipop plants he brought for the bag draw.

Following our nutrition break Alexey gave us his very enlightening presentation on Orchid nutrition and maximizing growth capacity.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO BROUGHT ITEMS FOR AND PARTICIPATED IN THE BAG DRAW.

Hints on Getting Cattleyas to Flower in the Home

By Ned Mattinen

If you are one of the home window growers of Cattleya orchids who has never had any difficulty in getting his orchids into bloom, then this article may not be of benefit to you (unless you may discover an unknown thing or two of interest that you might like to tryout). Nothing like finding out for yourself!

Growing Cattleya orchids in the home is simple indeed. . . but if you want to "flower" them. . . do take my advice and select a good size window and hack down those shading trees and shrubbery in front of it. Strip off those awnings and extended eaves or ledges over the windows! Now, let's hope that the window chosen faces either east, southeast, south, southwest, or west and we shall be set for big thrill!

To get your plants into bloom easier. . . try the following:

- * Always keep the newest growth facing towards the sunlight so that the opening leaf receives a good amount of light.
- * If possible, keep night temperature under 72° F.
- * Aluminum foil wrapped around the pots during hot season will keep media cooler and help induce buds on the plant.
- * If sheaths which carry buds turn yellow, carefully cut the tips off to allow air inside sheath. (Make sure not to cut the buds.)
- * A good amount of fresh air in the home during warm months helps to hasten bud and flower production.
- * Avoid over 14-hour light exposure to your Cattleyas per day.
- * Avoid strong paint sprays, room refreshers, tobacco smoke, etc., around your orchid plants during budding and flowering period.
- * Hot stuffy rooms during blooming period of Cattleyas can cause sepal reflex or fold-back.

During the warmer months (June to late August) when the foliage on my plants is lighter in color, I use (once or twice a month) a weak solution of iron chelate immediately after watering the plants. This seems to perk up plants and improve bloom during summer months. I use ¼ teaspoon per quart of water. . . over the potting media (not used during cool months when foliage is a deeper green).

The above methods used reasonably have brought me some very beautiful orchid blooms and healthy, husky plants.

Paphiopedilum Culture Under Lights the Easy Way

By Frank L. Booth

I have been growing Paphiopedilums under lights since 1965 and I do specialize in them. For myself there is no finer orchid in the world.

They are of such easy culture and you can have them in flower the year round. The flowers last for weeks, although some will last for months, such as the multifloras and some single flowered ones. For the most part, neither insects nor disease bother them under lights, although with all orchids from time to time something might crop up.

I'm always asking the experts for advice and I always will. How else can I become an expert! I do grow my Paphiopedilums in a partitioned off part of my basement and I have experimented with all types of lights, potting media and pots.

The summation that follows is what I have found to be the optimum for myself. I will always be experimenting; I feel that is half the fun in growing Paphiopedilums. To date, I have been able to flower 99 percent of the Paphiopedilums in my collection. This includes the so-called hard to flower white complexes, such as *P. Lucille Mackey* and *Miller's Daughter*. The hard-leaf types, such as *P. laevigatum* and *P. roebbelenii*. Many of the Paphiopedilums that are supposed to have a single flower on the stem have two instead, which sometimes is another added benefit.

Now for my culture.

TEMPERATURES

All Paphiopedilums, both plain green-leaf and mottled-leaf types receive the same temperatures.

My summer temperatures are whatever they want to be, since I have no mechanical means of controlling them except for a small fan that I put on from time to time during the summer, when it gets real hot in the plant room. I do feel that the warmer the potting media is, as long as the roots are given adequate water, the better and larger the root systems become.

Only one caution "is that when you have temperatures in the high eighties and nineties, you should raise your lights a little higher above the plants, and add some circulating air via a small fan to keep the air moving. Try to use an oscillating fan. Normally I try to have the highest leaf of each Paphiopedilum within a couple of inches of the tubes, but this is not always possible because of growing spikes.

As for temperatures, I have had them as high as ninety-eight degrees during the summer and as cold as forty degrees during the winter with no noticeable effects.

To sum it up, I do not worry about temperatures, although I do try to maintain a sixty degree night temperature during the year and especially during late fall through spring, letting the day temperatures be what they want to be. All in all I feel optimum year-round temperatures are fifty-five degrees at night and eighty degrees during the day, but this is not a must.

HUMIDITY

I do not believe in misting heavily, especially during the cold weather months. I also do

not think it is a good practice to mist in late afternoon. With misting you "can" get leaf rot and bud damp-off. I have no humidity control. Since my Paphiopedilums are in a closed-off room I'm able to maintain very good humidity. Winters average 40 percent to 60 percent and summers average 60 percent to 95 percent.

WATERING

First let me say that I grow all large multi-growth adult Paphiopedilums in clay pots and seedlings in plastic pots. I do feel that I get as good root growth in clay pots as I do in plastic pots. The reason for plastic pots on the seedlings is mainly so that I can use the same watering schedule for them as I use for my adult Paphiopedilums. For watering, I water every three to seven days and when I do water I really soak them by letting the water pour out of the pots.

For the most part, temperatures dictate when the Paphiopedilums need to be watered, along with a careful eye. I always try to use rainwater, but sometimes I get caught short and then I use city water that has set for a least forty-eight hours. I never water by the calendar, but I always mark on a calendar when I water and fertilize my Paphiopedilums. I let my Paphiopedilums tell me when they are thirsty or something is wrong with them by observing them often and carefully. Oh yes, they do talk to me and heed my advice. Just ask my wife. She is always asking me, "Who have you got down there now, that you are talking with?"

LIGHTING

I use only four tube fixtures. I have used all types and combinations of tubes with varying results. In years past I was using Vita-Lite 'Power Twist' tubes, but I found them undependable along with being expensive, and have since went back to Glo-Lux 'Wide Spectrum' tubes and am again having excellent results with them, and of course they are very dependable and inexpensive compared to some types on the market. I do keep dates when I replace tubes and they are all replaced after 18 months of use. Not all at the same time though, but staggered so as not to shock the plants. I have also experimented quite a lot with duration of the day length (time that the tubes are left on) and I am now down to thirteen hours a day with excellent results. This was descending gradually from a high of sixteen hours per day. This I feel is the minimum that I can go and still achieve excellent results.

All fixtures are hung by chains so that they can be readily adjusted up for rising flower stems, to keep the heat of the tubes away from the leaves during the hot spells and cleaning of tubes.

Once a month after fertilizing my Paphiopedilums I always raise up the fixtures and wipe off all tubes with a damp cloth, followed immediately with a dry one, to remove all accumulations of dust.

FEEDING

All Paphiopedilums are given 20-20-20 at one-half strength once a month. I always water one day ahead before I fertilize so as to be sure the fertilizer is spread throughout the pot and not just out the drain holes because of a dry mix. Between feeding, it is quite important that you water good so that the salts are pushed out of the pots. Salt buildup can cause burning of the roots!

POTTING

I do try and repot every 18 months or so, but for the most part the plant itself and the mix tell me when to repot. There is no question that a Paphiopedilum left too long in its mix will end up having root loss, and without roots you have no plant. Also keep in mind that just because Paphiopedilums are supposed to be terrestrial does not mean to pot them up in a tight mix, because they do like to have air around their roots. As for my mix, which works just great for me, it is as follows. For adult Paphiopedilums I use only medium bark that has been sifted through ¼ " size (1/4 " openings) screen to remove all dust. To this I add approximately one handful of sphagnum moss per six inch pot size. For seedlings I use fine fir bark only that has been sifted through 1/16" size screen. I then mix this up good, add water and let stand for a day.

I then wash off all old potting material. Choose as small of a pot as possible, crock the pot well then add one inch deep of mix, then set in the Paphiopedilum, being quite concerned with spreading out the roots as much as possible and then pouring in the mix, so that the base of the Paphiopedilum is 1/2" below the surface and no more. I then pour some water through the mix and put it back into the collection and give it the regular culture. I cannot overemphasize just how important it is to do the best potting job possible. Out of all aspects of culture I do feel this is the most important.

Orchid Digest, July-August 1982

What's in bloom at the Muttart February 2016

Chysis bractescens 13358D

Chysis is a genus of approximately thirteen epiphytic or lithophytic species found from Mexico south to Peru and east to Andean Venezuela. The genus name or meaning refers to the 8 pollina being fused together

This widespread but uncommon species are normally found on the lower slopes of mountains facing the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean from Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. The plants usually grow as epiphytes in wet mountain forests below



This plants are grown in in East (Shady side) of the hot greenhouse. This is on of the oldest plants in the collection and was first listed in the 1996 inventory of the collection

2800 ft. (850 m)

***Laelia anceps* var. *alba* 13427A**

From in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. normally grow in warm oak forests with tropical deciduous trees at 3950–5250 ft. (1200–1600 m). The habitat is varied, however, and plants may grow somewhat higher or lower in cooler or hotter climates in both shady and sunny locations. The varied habitat indicates an adaptability that explains why these plants are usually considered easy to cultivate.

This is grown on the West (sunny) side of the hot greenhouse



***Bulbophyllum falcatum* (green)**

Commonly known as the Sickie-Shaped Leaf *Bulbophyllum*, this species hails from tropical west Africa ranging from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Cameroon, as well as the Congo, Uganda, and Principe Island. They are usually found in mountainous regions at elevations of 1000-3000 ft. (300-910 m).

The plant produces a series of mini flowers on the side of a pea pod, that really need to be magnified to truly enjoy their beauty.



This is grown on the east (shady side) of the hot greenhouse and was purchase from the OSPF in 2014

Kraenzlinella lappago

There are currently 10 species in the *Kraenzlinella* genus. This genus has recently been split from the much larger *Pluerothallis* genus

This species, commonly known as the Burr Bearing pluerothallis can be found in Ecuador at elevations of 400 to 1500 meters

This plant is grown on the East (shady side) of the hot greenhouse and was purchased by the OSPF in 2014



Phaius tankervilleae

This genus is composed of 30 species widespread through Madagascar to the Philippines and the Pacific Islands.

This species is commonly known as the Nun's Orchid; Kunai [a type of tall grass] Orchid of Emma Tankerville's *Phaius*

This large, terrestrial species is a hot to warm growing native of Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Xizang and Yunnan provinces of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Pacific Islands, Malaysia and Indonesia at elevations up to 1300 meters in lower montane woods and in grasslands in moist depressions with black soil

After blooming and the fall of the dead flowers, the flower stalk can be cut off and placed on sand in a long, plastic, plant flat and partially covered. It then should be placed in a deep shaded, humid, well watered area and in 2 to 3 months, plantlets will begin to grow from the old floral bracts. After 6



This species has become an invasive species in some countries such as Jamaica and Hawaii.

In Papua the smoked flowers are eaten as a contraceptive.

This is part of the recent donation to the OSPF by Merv Lutes of British Columbia – so most of the growing accolades should go to Merv for such a beautiful plant.

months they can be transplanted into a pot.

Coelogyne santosi???

Occasionally, we get plants donated whose name is not recognized on the Plant List. This is the case with this specimen which has a beautiful flower. So I thought I would put this out there to see if anyone has any ideas on what this specimen's actual name is. In the meantime we will endeavour to discover it's true identify



Sources for all of the above are

Charles Baker

Orchidwiz

Orchid Photographic Encyclopedia

Photographs by Doug Bove