

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Newsletter
March 2010



Bulbophyllum miniatum 'Goat' CHM/AOS(pending) Owner Mike Miller, Awarded at the Victoria Orchid Society Show March 5, 2010 [flower width 1.1cm vertical 1.4cm.]

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Meetings are held September through June on the Saturday before the 4th Wednesday of each month 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:

Mar 20, April 17, May 22, June 19, 2010

Program for March 20th

Live 50/50 Auction

All lots must be registered in by 11:00 am

First lot will start at 12:00 am

Please do not come too early for viewing 11:00-12:00

Coming Events:

CVIOS Show and Sale April 16th – 18th 2010, Country Club Centre, Nanaimo.

Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale May 7th – 8th 2010, Richmond curling Club

CVIOS Summer Picnic, Time and Place to be announced.

Editorial:

This month the Auction will take the place of a meeting. There will a number of guests joining us and remember to bring a friend with a few dollars in their pockets. The lots will be spread out on tables for viewing and bidders will be given numbered paddles to help us with names etc. [see below]

The Japanese plants all looked very good. They were distributed to those who ordered them and all seemed delightfully surprised. Potting up some of the tubers was interesting. It was like preparing a burial for a stiff whitish fuzzy larva. I said a little gardener's pray over each. The Cyps and Bletillas looked very good. It will be interesting to see how true to the description they turn out. I potted all 5 of my Bletillas in half gallon pots and will sink them up to the rims later. All are looking good with sturdy sprouts up through the soil.

Please read the notes on the auction so you are prepared. It will hopefully run very smoothly.

Cheers Mike

**CVIOS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon. 28 Members Present and there were 4 guests present: Stephanie, Madeline, Tom and Connie.

1. Dora moved approval of the minutes of our January 23 meeting, Mike 2nd and motion carried. There was no old business.
2. Treasurer Shelley Rattink presented the statement of income and expenses for the month ending January 31. Shelley moved acceptance of her report, Sue 2nd.
3. Correspondence received this month included: Orchid Digest, AOS Journal and Lea Valley Garden catalogue.
4. New Business:
 - Sue passed around volunteer sign-up sheets for our show in April. She also distributed sponsorship sheets for members to sponsor 'Best of Class' awards for the show. Posters are ready and will be distributed at our March meeting.
 - Nancy asked for volunteers to participate in judging at Victoria's show March 5. Five members indicated they would participate.

5. March Auction:

- Reminder: We will be having our fundraising auction on March 20 in place of a general meeting and program. Set up will start at 10:00 am., with items arriving from 10:00 to 11:00. Viewing will be from 11:00 to noon, when the auction will begin. Proceeds can be shared 50/50 with the donor or donated entirely to the CVIOS.

- Refreshment will be provided. Thank you to Linda, Don, Maureen, Vickie, and Dora for bringing goodies in February. The following people have agreed to bring goodies for the auction: Maureen, Laurie, Bev, Shirley, Mike, Hillary & Fred, Sue C. and Bob C.

DON'T FORGET YOUR AUCTION ITEMS AND TO INVITED FRIENDS AND FELLOW PLANT LOVERS TO PARTICIPATE.

6. Programs: Pat van Adrickem has agreed to do the program in June.

7. Victoria Show: Mike will be doing our display and will need lots of plants as he has reserved six tables and he will have a large vehicle to transport plants. Dora and Reg will also have room to take plants down on Thursday for our display. Plants can be taken to Dora's on Wednesday or on Thursday morning.

8. Volunteers are welcome to come and help stuff information about our show into bags that will be distributed at the Nanaimo Horticultural Show taking place March 12 - 14 at Beban. This will be done on the morning of Friday, March 12. If you are interested in helping, call Shirley for details.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 and we moved on to our show table and Bryan's helpful presentation on getting our orchids ready for shows.

The Victoria Show



The CVIOS Display from the front



CVIOS display from the back

The right end showing the Art Entries.



The CVIOS display was designed by Mike and with the help of Dora, Reg Jerry and Donna it all went together almost as planned. The plants were contributed from Donna, Dora, Maureen, Laurie, Shirley, Anne & Rainer, Jerry and Mike.

How we did: The display won Best Visiting Society and we were presented with the perpetual trophy, a carved West Coast tray. We gathered in 15 blue ribbons, 8 reds, and 3 whites, but brought in the big ribbons with Best Paphiopedilum with Paph. Judge Philip owned by Anne and Rainer, Best Other in Cyp sub-family with Phrag. Paul Eugene Covoy, owned by Anne and Rainer, Best Oncidium with Psychopsis Mariposa "Green Valley", owned by Donna, Best of All Others, with Phaius Microburst "Octoberfest" AM/AOS, owned by Donna, Best first-bloom seedling, all other with Paph rothschildianum, owned by Anne & Rainer, Best Orchid grown exclusively under artificial lights, with Paph. Judge Philip, owned by Anne & Rainer, Best Orchid Picture, with a watercolour of a white Paph., created by Donna.

There were 19 AOS Nominations to be looked at more closely of which 6 were from our table. Paul Eugene Covoy, Paph. Judge Philip, Psychopsis Mariposa "Green Valley" all mentioned above as well as Pot. Memoria Harry Johnson, owned by Mike, Slc. Mini Doris Carmela' owned by Dora, and Bulbophyllum miniatum owned by Mike. We were awarded one award. The Bulbophyllum miniatum 'Goat' was given a CHM [Certificate of Horticultural Merit] of 82 points.

Bryan had a display right beside the CVIOS's with Florence Davis and gathered 4 blue, 7 red and 6 white ribbons and Best of Other in Dendrobium Alliance with Cirrhopetalum refractum. They also had three other AOS Nominations.

Thank you to all the people who sent in plants and to all those who helped put up and take down the display.

The Auction and how to play the game and win.

All items for the auction **must be brought to the hall between 10:00 and 11:00**, No items brought in late will be accepted as it takes too much time to process everything. Viewing is from 11:00 till 12:00 and the Auction starts at 12:00.

Dora will be meeting you in the outer hall and issuing your paddle (Paper Plate) with your bidding number on it. To bid you will hold it up and will be recognized by number not name.

Those of you with items for the auction will progress to the registration table just inside the hall proper and deal with Donna and Anne. **NO PLANT WITH PESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR AUCTION.** The rest of you will progress into the hall and get your seats and look at the lots on offer.

Until 12:00 you can all look over the goodies and figure out where your money is going.

To bid you hold up your paddle and will be recognized by number by the auctioneer.

The winning bid and paddle number will be recorded and will be sent to the cashier, Shelley and her assistant, before the end of the auction. We ask you to bring a pen or pencil and record the lot number and price on the back of your plate so we have a double record of what you will pay in the end.

When an item is bought it will be taken by the runners to the cashier's tables. We will try to have all items bought by one person end up together on the tables.

At the end of the auction the bidder will bring their paddle to the cashier and pay the total amount owing and the cashier will sign the paddle paid in full and then the bidder can collect his or her goodies.

Carry bags or boxes would be great to have in your cars to hold and carry all of what you buy. It will make it easier for you to move them.

The payouts will be sent to the seller after the cashier has been paid for all the items. The cheques will be mailed out promptly after the auction.

Pot Culture of Native Orchids of North America

by Dr Wilford Neptune, transcribed by Inge Poot

This is a summary of portions of the excellent talk given by Dr Neptune as part of the MAOC Speaker's Forum, Sunday, August 24, 2003. Dr. Neptune is a retired thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon who has been growing a mixed collection of orchids (155 genera) since 1972. Since 1982 he has received 102 awards, one from the RHS and 101 from the AOS, of which 20 were for cypripediums! Challenged by Dr. Carson Whitlow's success story with calopogons he has spent the last ten years perfecting his pot culture of native North American orchids. Dr Carson E. Whitlow published "Fun Flowers" on the culture of Calopogons in the September 1992 issue, pages 860-865 of the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society and the information should help with attempts at culture in pot.



Calopogon, Grass Pink is grown by Dr Neptune in 50% peat moss and 50% perlite. In spring, he uses a 5 inch (10cm) pot with drainage material on the bottom, plants the tuber two times its width deep, and places the pot in a saucer of water in full sun. He fertilizes once a week with one quarter strength fish and seaweed fertilizer. After the first frost he digs up the tuber, puts it into peat moss and over winters it in a 30 to 35 degree Fahrenheit (minus one to plus two degrees Celsius) fridge for its dormancy period.

Calopogon tuberosus

There are some interesting hybrids being developed with the species in this genus. Crossing the sequentially flowering *C. tuberosus* that has one to two flowers open at a time, with the small flowered, but simultaneously opening *C. multiflorum* results in a hybrid with large sequentially opening flowers where 2 or more flowers are open at the same time. (Source of plants: Carson Whitlow, see 1. below)

Dr Neptune also mentioned that the October blooming *Spiranthes odorata* 'Chadds Ford' CCM-AOS is grown like the Calopogons, but unlike the Calopogons should be wintered in the fridge **in the pot**. (Sources of plants: Barry Glick, see 2. below, Roslyn Nursery, see 3. below). Charles Sheviak, the taxonomist for the state of New York feels that it is not necessary to place calopogons and spiranthes in the fridge for dormancy.

A **Rose Pogonia, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*** collected in a Florida swamp was grown in an artificial bog. To grow it in a pot, the roots should be wrapped in live sphagnum, the pot should be set into a saucer of water, it must not receive any fertilizer and the undisturbed pot should be over wintered in the fridge. The plant grown this way, produced one leaf the first year, two leaves the second year,



three leaves and one to two flowers the third year, while in the fourth year the flowers were fewer, but larger and darker. Owen Robinson of Jacksonville VT has an artificial bog in which he grows pitcher plants and white and pink Rose Pogonias. (He sells wholesale only)

Ladyslippers:

Cypripedium formosanum a native of Formosa, now called Taiwan, is the easiest to grow and has been in pot culture for over 100 years in China, Japan, Germany and England. Dr Neptune is puzzled by the fact that it has not caught on in North America. It is hardy outside to WI and VT but because of January and February thaws tends to die in the New England states. With a rise in temperature this plant will start to grow and can flower in 14 days. Unfortunately, the thaw only lasts for 5-7 days, during which time the flower bud is up out of the foliage. With the drop in temperature the bud is destroyed, the plant survives, but there will be no flower for that year. A few growers are successful growing it outside by mulching it and this seems to work out well on Long Island, NY.



Cypripedium mix:

1. 3 gallons of woods soil taken from the top two inches (5 cm) of a mixed forest, mostly white pine. This is hand rubbed through a 1/4 inch (0.5 cm) wire screen. The result is a light, fluffy, fairly fine soil which does not compact even when wet. To this add:
2. 8 cups fine peat moss for water retention
3. 8 cups fine perlite and
4. 4 cups medium perlite for aeration
5. 1/2 cup oyster shell and
6. 1/4 cup pelletized lime to buffer the mix to a pH of 7.2 to 7.4
7. Use a one inch (2.5 cm) layer of marble chips as drainage in the bottom of the pots.

Most commercial sources of cypripediums ship the plants bare root after they are dormant in the fall. In contrast to most other orchids a generously sized pot is used. For a single growth plant a two gallon (8 litre) pot is used, with the one inch (2.5 cm) layer of marble chips on the bottom for drainage. Fill the pot two thirds full with the mix described above, then make a mound up to about one inch from the top and wind the roots around the mound and leave the eye for next year's growth at the centre of the mound. Fill the rest of the pot and water thoroughly with pure water (water from an RO unit supplies enough water for all of Dr. Neptune's the North American native orchids) and set aside to drain over night. The next day place the pot inside a double plastic bag, to guard against drying out, and then put it into a refrigerator at 35 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit (3 to 4 degrees Celsius) for a minimum of 10 -12 weeks of cold dormancy. This period is frequently called vernalization, a term which is now being accepted in horticulture; however, this is technically incorrect. In botany, vernalization, by definition, means to initiate a flower bud by exposure to cold, as in a lily. None of the cypripediums need vernalization as the flower bud is in the eye for next year's growth when it becomes dormant in the fall. All cypripediums do, however, need a period of cold dormancy to initiate growth and leaf production when the temperature rises in the spring. When the plants are brought out in the spring, Dr Neptune grows them in the cool house

with a minimum night temperature of 46 degrees Fahrenheit (8 degrees Celsius) through their period of flowering, and then they go outside on a wall beside the east side of Dr Neptune's greenhouse until fall dormancy.

Depending on the location Dr Neptune can vary the amount of sunshine the plant receives. He tries for between 1500 and 2500 foot candles of light. They are kept evenly moist with pure water and fed ¼ strength fish meal and sea weed until August and then no more fertilizer. After they enter dormancy, or by November, all foliage is cut off and the plants are again place inside a refrigerator. He has used a cold frame for the period of cold dormancy, but the temperature outside is so erratic in the spring that he prefers the refrigerator with better control of the temperature.

Of the 11 *Cypripedium* ladyslippers that Dr Neptune has in cultivation at present, about 10 do fine with the same treatment as *C. formosanum*, but *C. acaule* needs special treatment. *Cypripedium acaule's* accepted method of transplanting according to Scott Durkee was, that it should be collected with a huge earth ball to have even a 10% success rate. The theory was that one would thus get the micorrhiza it is associated with in nature, as the latter grows along the surface of the soil within the evergreen or deciduous tree duff. One would thus get both the undamaged roots and the micorrhiza containing soil. Scott Durkee of VT Ladyslipper Farm worked out how to get a 90% success rate with this species. The micorrhiza is essential in nature for the germination of the seed, but after the plants have developed roots they usually are infected with the micorrhiza, but don't need them anymore. Scott Durkee has grown plants of this species from seed to flowering in flask without any exposure to micorrhiza. Furthermore the plants are not truly terrestrial as the roots grow out radially from the base of the plant and are on the surface of the soil and covered over with one or two inches (2 to 5 cm) of duff.



To transplant a plant with a 90% success rate, fork it out with a manure fork in the fall after it has become dormant, by sliding the fork under the duff along the soil surface and lifting up. The duff will fall through the tines and the roots will remain on top of the fork. Place the plant flat onto moist newspapers and move to a suitable new location. There, remove the duff, scarify the soil surface, lay the plant flat onto the bed, add one to two inches of duff plus for this first year a mulch of one to two inches (5 cm) of wood chips and water in. Continue watering when needed for the whole first year to prevent the stress of drought. Once established the plant can tolerate severe drought and nutrient poor soil. However, a pH above 5 kills it. Therefore use pure water acidified to a pH of 3.5 to 4 with cider vinegar for watering. For pot culture use all duff as the medium, do not feed and keep it evenly moist with pH 3.5 to 4 pure water. Over winter in an unheated garage or cold frame and cover with oak leaves. Success with this cypripedium cannot be claimed until one has grown and flowered it for at least three successive years.

Cypripedium macranthos does not like the conditions that Dr Neptune is able to give them and of the three different plants he tried from three different sources he flowered one, but all three were dead at the end of two years.

The other cypripedium species Dr Neptune grows like *C. formosanum* are :*C. calceolus* *C. pubescens*, *C. parviflorum*, *C. kentuckiense* (3 foot stems with flower size 2x that of *C parviflorum*, hardy to VT & WI) *C. Gisella* (*C. ventricosum* x *C. parviflorum*) *C. cordigerum* *C. tibeticum*, *C. montanum*, *C. reginae*

Sources for hardy terrestrials: (recommended by Dr Neptune or the Conservation committee)

1. Carson Whitlow, slipperguy@aol.com , seedling cyps and rescued plants, calopogons
2. Barry Glick, Sunshine Farm, Renick, WV, www.sunfarm.com , Spiranthes and a few others at times.
3. Roslyn Nursery, 211 Burrs Lane, Dix Hills, NY 11746 , www.roslynnursery.com , Spiranthes cernua 'Chadds Ford', occasionally S. sinensis and Cyp. calceolus.
4. Dr Heinrich Beyrle, Postfach 1129, 86316 Friedberg, Germany, www.myorchids.de , Extensive list of European hardy terrestrials.
5. Bill Steele, Spangle Creek Labs, www.uslink.net/-scl/ , Only seedlings out of flask.
6. Scott Durkee, VT Ladyslipper Co., www.vtladyslipper.com , Cyp. seedlings and flowering size plants.
7. Tom Nelson, Woods End Nursery, 807 College Street, Northfield, MN 55057, (507)663-1544
8. Werner Frosch, (Cyp hybrids), Hohenweg 8, 63303 Dreieich, Germany, www.wfrosch.onlinehome.de/menue_e.htm
9. Owen Robinson, Raising Rarities, Jacksonville, VT, wholesale only. Dr Neptune feels he would be remiss if he did not mention Owen Robinson, since in his opinion he has superb plant material. Unfortunately he no longer deals with retail, but his plants are now sold by a number of garden centres such as #10 below;
10. White Flower Farm, CT. May have C. kentuckiense.

Dr Neptune can be reached at wneptune@aol.com

Orchid Society of Nova Scotia January 2004

Pictures taken form Botanica's Pocket Orchids

Calopogon tuberosus Wayne Harris

Pogonia ophioglossoides Howard Wood

Cypripedium formosanum Wolfgang Rysy

Cypripedium calceolus Wolfgang Rysy

GROWING WITH ORCHIDS

Orchid Collection Records

By Ken Slump

The Benefits of Keeping Information on Plants you Grow and Flower

Keeping some records on the plants in your orchid collection is one of the best ways to maximize the learning potential from your hobby, but the extent of those records and the best method in which to keep them will vary from grower to grower. How to maintain the data is not as difficult a decision as determining what data should be kept, and that can range from minimal information to lots of detail.

At the very least, most hobbyists should want to keep track of the names of all of their orchids. Indeed, in my early days of fanatical buying, I kept lists of the plants I'd purchased to take along at shopping time simply to prevent purchasing the same orchids again and again. You'll probably also want to note when and where your orchids were obtained, and such basic record keeping should commence on the day a new plant is acquired. A few also like to note the size of the plant and its general condition at the time it comes into their collection.

A NUMBERING SYSTEM Some growers and hobbyists give each new acquisition a unique identification number to help differentiate it from the other plants in their collection, including those plants that may have the same name. A simple way to construct such accession numbers is to build a four- or five-digit code where the first two digits represent the year in which the orchid is acquired and the last numbers represent its sequence in the acquisitions that year. Whether you need a four or five-digit number will depend on whether your annual orchid purchases exceed 100 plants. For example, 98026 could represent the 26th plant acquired in 1998; similarly 03101 could be used for the 101st plant acquired in 2003.

An advantage of such a system is that the grower can identify each plant with a tag listing only its accession number (or its number and its name) and store all other pertinent information elsewhere. Obviously, a purely sequential numerical sequence can be used, but using the year of acquisition in the formula will tell you a plant's tenure in your collection at a glance, which you will appreciate immensely as your years of orchid growing accumulate.

SPELLING COUNTS Soon after you acquire a new plant it is a good idea to verify the accuracy and spelling of its name (and perhaps any synonyms). If the orchid is a hybrid, you may also want to discover and record its parentage, as this can help you learn how to care for the plant as well as point out relationships among the plants in your collection. Great Britain's Royal Horticultural Society is the official registrar for orchid hybrids, and you can look up your plants' names at its Web site: www.rhs.org.uk/research/registration-orchids.asp. Alternatively, there are good computer databases available that would provide similar information. Those who prefer books to computers will find that a recent copy of *American Orchid Society Awards* (popularly known as the Fisher/Bishop list) will contain the names of most of the plants available for purchase. Checking the names of your orchids may seem trivial, but you'll probably be surprised at the number of misspellings and other mistakes that accompany the names of certain popular orchids as they are propagated and passed along through the years.

PLANT PERFORMANCE Beyond the basic accession data, many growers like to track the performance of their plants, most particularly their flowering habits. I recommend you record the day, month and year that the first flower of the inflorescence is effectively open. Over time, you'll learn which of your orchids flower regularly, which flower more than once each year, and, perhaps most importantly, which do not flower for you at all. Other floral data you may choose to record can include the number of flowers, their measurements, description of their color, how long they last and whether they are fragrant. Some hobbyists take pictorial records, either photographic or electronic, of their plants flowers to store with other pertinent data. A visual image can be particularly useful when it comes time to evaluate the floral quality of seedling plants.

If you fancy yourself an amateur researcher and are keenly interested in learning how to grow your orchids as well as you possibly can, recording cultural data may be important for you. Some find it valuable to keep notes about the growing medium, type of pot and even details about the watering and fertilizing regime. Tracking the environmental conditions - light level, temperature extremes and relative humidity - can also help lead you to the cultural nirvana for each type of orchid.

Although the majority of hobbyists have little interest in the preceding level of record keeping, I strongly advise all growers to keep track of one piece of cultural data for every plant in their collections - its repotting date. Not only is it useful to know how long any particular orchid has been in its current pot so far as decomposition of the growing medium is concerned, but it is also valuable to know the time of year in which the plant was previously repotted, because, for some orchids, the time of year can make a big difference in whether the plant successfully reestablishes itself.

Additional information that could prove useful during the course of your adventure with orchids might include notes about pest and disease problems and how they were treated. You may also find it useful to keep records about when particular plants are divided or otherwise propagated. Recording who among your orchid buddies has received divisions of your favorites can help you track down replacement plants if you should lose the original.

Those who note the death or disposal date of their orchid casualties are true archivists. I have a sufficiently difficult time keeping up with what I consider to be pertinent information on my living specimens and simply delete the fallen from my records.

STORING DATA What data to keep will likely be a more difficult decision for you than how to keep it, as you likely already know which among several data storage possibilities is the best for you. At the basic level, you can keep your records on a plant label if it has adequate space for the data you require. Beyond that, plant diaries and lists can be adequate for maintaining some additional information about your plants, but retrieving particular bits or sets of data can become problematic as your collection grows. Beyond that, to a degree, simple card files offer the option of organizing and sorting the data.

Obviously, the advent of the home computer has provided many with the ability to store and sort data with comparative ease. While simple spreadsheets will be adequate for many, those who are technologically adept often create their own relational databases. If that is beyond your capability, plant collection database software is available for purchase by the hobbyist as well. Two caveats to the computer fanatics: Remember to back up your data, and don't become such a slave to your record keeping that you neglect your plants. The point of noting any information about your orchid collection should be to help you learn more about the plants and should not become a goal in itself.

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