

# CVIOS NEWSLETTER

## CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

April 2018

*CVIOS Meetings are held September to June on a Saturday at the Harewood Activity Center, 195 Fourth St, Nanaimo. Doors open at 11:00 with a brief business meeting starting at 12pm. Following is a display of plants brought in by members, a coffee break, prize draw and a featured presentation or demonstration. There is a sales table where orchid supplies and plants brought in by members can be purchased*

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**CVIOS EXECUTIVE 2017/18**

**President & AOS Chair:** Laurie Forbes

**Past President:** Bryan Emery

**Vice President:** Constance Gordon-Webster

**Treasurer:** Darlene Rathwell

**Secretary & Newsletter:** Suzanne Currie

**Membership:** Dora Glover

**Plant Sales Table:** Donna McDonnell

**Library:** Michael DeLeur

**Refreshments:** Sandra Lathrope

**Programs:** Alexey Tretyakov

**Directors At Large:** Sheila Wilson (publicity), Corey Timmins

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

#### 2017/2018:

April 21: Meeting and Orchid Digest Program: Phalaenopsis, the species and their culture

May: 26: CVIOS Plant Sale

June 16: June 16 - Alexey "More about Orchid Nutrition" and the AGM: This is the last Meeting until September

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### CVIOS UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 21, CVIOS will be showing an orchid digest program - Phalaenopsis: The species and their culture

May 26, CVIOS Orchid & Garden Market 11 -3pm, 803 Dogwood Road

June 16, Alexey Tretyakov, More about Orchid Nutrition and the AGM

### INFORMATION:

- ❖ March minutes are on page 3
- ❖ Mike Miller's report regarding the Vancouver Orchid Societies Show & Sale is on page 4
- ❖ Mitch Nickle kindly made notes regarding his talk in March on How to Identify and use Microclimates in your Growing Area Page 5 & 6
- ❖ For those signed on to bring refreshments in April....Dont forget 😊
- ❖ If any members are starting seeds, please start some extra plants for the CVIOS plant sale May 26. Plants, divisions, cuttings and of course ORCHIDS are needed

### ORCHIDS IN APRIL

#### General Orchid Growing Tips

This is one of the most exciting months of the year, filled with an abundance of flower spikes emerging. It's the beginning of the long growing season, enabling us to provide our plants with the foundation for maximum flower production in the next flowering season. Increase water and fertilizer as the days lengthen and warm to yield floral dividends in the months beyond. Consider adding an additional 30% shade cloth to protect plants from the intense summer sun and heat.

#### Cattleyas

*C. aelandiae* and *C. forbesii* produce flowers that last for weeks. *C. mossiae* and its hybrids are well known for their spectacular, long lasting heads of 6 in blossoms that provide an abundance of flowers. Begin the annual repotting cycle by shifting and dividing those cattleyas that flowered earlier this year and are beginning to produce new growth. Typically, you should repot only when the new growth is emerging to take advantage of the plant's tendency to make new roots when it is forming new pseudobulbs.

#### Cymbidiums

If you have more than one or two brown leaves, you may have a cultural problem. If the plant is loose in its pot, the mix has degraded and the plant should be repotted. If the plant is firm in its pot, it is asking for more fertilizer.

#### Phalaenopsis

Moth orchids are in their prime, boasting arching and branching sprays of beautiful flowers. Most growers don't spray chemicals on blooming phals so check for signs of pests like scale or mites that you can spot treat with alcohol.

## **Vandas**

Vandas are entering into their growth period and you should see an abundance of new rootlets. Locate them where they get bright bright light (though not direct light) and plenty of fresh air. Increase water and fertilizer to fuel their growth, they'll reward you later in the season with abundant blooms. Water them one to three times a day with an automated spray system or water wand and apply fertilizer after roots dry off a bit.

## **CVIOS Minutes of the General Meeting – March 17, 2018**

Laurie Forbes called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm with 19 members present.

Visiting is Emma Sise on behalf of the Nanaimo Art Gallery. They would like to do an orchid display, hopefully using CVIOS members blooming orchids) at the art gallery June 22-July 22 in conjunction with the artist Arvo Leo's exhibition. Her contact is exhibitions@nanaimogallery.ca

Laurie asked for a motion regarding approval of the minutes of the Feb. meeting. Dora moved the February minutes be accepted as published in the Newsletter, Connie 2nd the motion, motion carried.

**Correspondence:** 2 new magazines are available for members

**Treasurers Report:** Darlene reviewed income and expenses and gave the current bank balance. She moved acceptance of her report, Shirley 2nd, motion carried.

### **General Business:**

#### **Programs:**

Mitch Nickel is speaking today regarding orchids and micro climates

April – CVIOS ordered two programs from Orchid Digest. Phalaenopsis Species and Culture and Masdevallias and Draculas: The species hybrids and culture Phalaenopsis: The species and their culture will be shown in April

May - Saturday, May 26 - Garden 'Plant & Orchid Sale' at Darlene Rathwells, 803 Dogwood Road. Dora has a tent and tables. Suzanne has a table. It will be a 50/50 split for orchid sales and large potted plants if the seller desires. Sales can include orchids, plants, seedlings, accessories, books, pots, soil etc. A silent Auction is also being considered.

Time 11am till 3pm. Plant drop off is the day before. Set up at 9am. All members please bring a snack for refreshment table. A volunteer list will be available at the April meeting. Darlene and Sheila will organize the plant sales.

June - Alexey - More on Orchid Nutrition and CVIOS AGM – CVIOS is looking for new executive members including a president.

CVIOS can ask a judge to do a meeting program next season.

#### **Plant Orders:**

Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids is speaking in Victoria June 25, Laurie will check with Sasha regarding plant orders for members attending. A car pool could be arranged.

Equaflora Orchids was offering plant orders, but CVIOS has declined this year due to other opportunities and the Vancouver show pre orders.

#### **Library:**

The library is available for members today

#### **Vancouver Show:**

Mike Miller is transporting plants to Vancouver. Drop off plants at Lauries, Mikes or Doras Thursday morning. VOS website has show forms. Meeting Adjourned 12:55

# The 2018 Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale

The Vancouver society Orchid Show and Sale was a great success again this year. The Floral Hall at VanDusen was not super-heated so medically I was OK. The 3 ½ hour wait for the ferry at Departure Bay was exasperating and being the second to last car on the 10:40 was a relief. I was going to arrive after 1pm so would miss the registration deadline so was prepared for a ribbon-less show, but knowing I was in transit they held the deadline for us and we got all 38 of our plants registered.

Ribbon judging went smoothly and our 9 members all won ribbons with their plants. We brought home 3 first place ribbons, 12 second place ribbons and 4 third place ribbons. The two first time members to show plants here Clementine Ralson and Valerie Melanson got their first ribbons. I would like to personally thank Conny, Dora, Laurie Margaret and Shirley for entering plants with me.

A HUGE thankyou to Leslie Milne for meeting me over there and helping with setting up and being there for over two of the three days. She also took the pictures. All in all, a great showing for our Society.

Cheers Mike Miller



## How to identify and use Microclimates in your growing area, by Mitch Nickle

- **MATCH THE PLANTS YOU COLLECT TO YOUR ENVIRONMENTS!** This is a critical key and learning to observe small differences in your growing environment will help with this. The more you can learn about the microclimates from which your plants come, the more prepared you are to match them to your own.
- The culture sometimes dominates primary hybrids needs of one parent. Complex hybrids will require an average between all the species involved. For example, one may contain mostly cool growers and grow well cool-intermediate, while another of the same hybrid name group may contain mostly warm growers and grows warm-intermediate. The more you know about their parentage, the better prepared you are to fit them in.
- Re-evaluate the angles and intensities of light as well as temperature extremes **EVERY THREE MONTHS!** A time roughly around the Solstice and Equinox is best (March, June, September and December) Growing areas with no natural light must still be checked for temperature and humidity changes. You can use the pencil method suggested below to measure and track angles and intensities of light. Move your Plants Around Accordingly As Needed!
- For growing lights, the highest amount light is in the middle of the tubes or at the middle of cone shaped beams. The lowest light levels are at either end and near the edges. Place high light plants in the middle and plants needing lower light at the edges and ends. Be aware that if the light stand/fixtures are near a window the side facing the window will be brighter. The top shelves are typically warmer than the lower ones, especially when positioned near windows or doorways. Carefully consider not just the plant size but also the flowering habits of those you chose to grow under lights or you will have damaged, deformed flowers and top-heavy tip overs!
- Position plants in a greenhouse with the smaller or more sensitive plants in the middle, away from aisles, doors, vents and fans. Use larger plants to shelter smaller ones and keep the highest light plants near walls and roofs. Shade or moisture lovers should be closer to floor level and/or near the middle of benches, where there is less light and more humidity. It is cooler near the floors, walls, doors and vents. It is warmer near the roofs, the center of the greenhouse and of course nearest to heaters. Sometimes it only takes 3-5 degrees to make a difference!
- On Windowsills, the angles at which light enters throughout the year is critical. Chose plants to match the windows you have and carefully observe which parts of the sill receive direct light for the longest period of the day and from what direction the strongest light comes. It is coolest at night near the window and sometimes dangerously cold near metal window frames. It is warmer closer to the room and near the middle of the windowpane and the highest day temperatures are closest to the glass. Be wary of dangerously hot or cold pockets of air getting trapped between the plants and the window! Adequate spacing and air movement should help prevent extremes. On windowsills it is especially important to re check light levels every three months as seasonal changes can turn a fully shaded window into a sunny one (or vice versa) in just weeks!
- Most orchids want **HUMIDITY** at their roots, **NOT STANDING WATER!** To create a moister, humid environment around a plant's root zone, set pot into a larger pot and fill in around it with something inert such as large pumice, lava rock or gravel. Be sure there are lots of drain holes and/or slits in the sides of the inner pot the plant is growing in to avoid suffocating the roots. Be sure that the pot or basket full of media is above water level at all times and do not use small gravel around the inner pot, as this will wick up too much moisture. Set the double potted plant on a saucer of any sized gravel or sand and keep it from drying up

completely. For the saucer, smaller particles will evaporate moisture faster than large ones. This system will add moisture and humidity around both the roots and plant but without restricting airflow.

- You can now adjust the inner pot used according to the needs of your plant, for example:
  - Regular pot with few or no side slits for moisture loving, fine rooted plants like Miltoniopsis, some Oncidiums and others that cannot tolerate drying out.
  - Pot with side slits for those that need lots of moisture but also lots of air at the roots, a very difficult combination. Many dendrobiums are in this category, as are many oncidiums, Miltonias, Brassias and their hybrids.
  - Fully open basket sunk in large gravel. Use these for plants that absolutely must dry out rapidly between frequent waterings and are often recommended for mounting.
  - For exceptionally wet growing plants like Phrags, fill the bottom inch or two of a regular pot with large gravel and keep it in a saucer of water at all times, watering and feeding from the top as usual. The outer pot may only be necessary if excessive heat is a problem in your growing area.
- When repotting always use the smallest container you can get the roots into without crushing them. DO NOT OVERPOT! When repotting it is better not to stuff aerial roots into potting medium unless they are the only roots the plant has. Aerial roots are adapted to air, not media and they will most likely rot if buried and kept damp right away, especially if broken or pruned to fit the pot. Leave them alone if possible and if needed, prune a minimal amount and keep the plant drier than average for a few weeks.
- Always keep at least one minimum/maximum thermometer and move these around frequently to keep track of differences and seasonal changes. To find light angles in windows, the pencil method may help:
  - Tape a sheet of white paper to the sill or bench. Secure a pencil or stick to a simple base (I use an empty paper cup and scotch tape) and place it near the center of a window or greenhouse wall.
  - At 9am, noon, 3pm and 6pm(summer) draw a pencil line down the Center of the Shadow cast by your upright object. This works best on sunny days of course and if the light is always diffuse at that hour, use a dotted line to show this. The resulting map shows you the angles and intensities of light through the day. This is the 'Swing' angle.
  - Another test measures the 'Dip' angle at summer and winter solstice. The paper is taped to a wall next to the window or greenhouse wall in question. A ruler is used to mark the angle at which the light falls. This will be closer to vertical in summer and closer to flat in winter. The dip angle can change the size and strength of higher light areas immensely, especially for windows. In summer the lit area is narrow but strong and in winter it is wide and weak.