



# CVIOS

Central Vancouver Island  
Orchid Society



Coelogyne cristata "the Queen" AM/AOS. Mike M.



Lc Goldbrad 'HCN 03"  
Laurie F



Aerangis fastuosa x Aer  
articulata Margaret M.

## *President's Message*

There's still no sure end in sight for the end of the pandemic, but I hope all of you are enjoying your orchids and some of us now have extra time to spend on them. Quite a few of my Phalaenopsis are in spike while I'm seeing new growth on several of my Cattleyas and hoping for blooms in a few months.

I've also been going through several boxes of CVIOS archival material, photos and such from 1973 forward and while I wasn't able to read every piece of paper, I found some interesting material such as:

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## *Upcoming :*

Stay tuned for upcoming events.

## *President's Message - Con't*

- Did you know that CVIOS started with a first meeting with 9 people in attendance on November 3, 1973 in Parksville?
- Dr. Svend Jensen got the group going.
- 2023 will be our 50th anniversary.
- At a meeting in January, 1974, Dr. Jensen was elected President, Mike Miller Vice-President and Vicki Tysdal Secretary/Treasurer
- The 'O' in CVIOS started out as Orchidists, then changed to Orchids.
- I believe we were set up as a Society in April of 1974 but haven't confirmed that.
- Mike Miller and Dora Glover have been there since the beginning and have filled so many positions over the years to keep the group going and growing.
- We used to be invited to participate in Conventions on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITIES).
- All BC orchid societies used to have a joint meeting each year - something which could be interesting to renew.
- Members travelled in groups to greenhouses and shows in Washington State and of course were able to take orchids to shows and bring back new plants without too much fuss before CITIES clamped down.
- For several years CVIOS paid the membership fee in the AOS for an orchid group in Hungary who could not afford the US funds. Hungary was chosen because many of our early members were from Hungary originally.

I have more historical items like this to share in the future. Keep safe, keep calm (especially around your lovely orchids) and this too shall pass.

Sheila Wilson, CVIOS President



# MONTHLY MEETINGS (CURRENTLY ON HOLD DUE TO COVID-19)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

CVIOS Meeting are held once per month September to June on Sunday at the North Oyster Community Center, 13467 Cedar Road, 11:30 to 2:30. Typically there is 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 and or speakers can be purchased

### *Mailing Address:*

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### CVIOS EXECUTIVE 2020/2021

**President:** Sheila Wilson

**Past President:** Dora Glover

**Vice President:** Leslie Milne

**Treasurer and AOS Chair:** Darlene Rathwell

**Secretary:** Suzanne Currie

**Membership:** Bernard Kespe

**Plant Sales Table:** Judy Russell

**Library:** Michael DeLeur

**Refreshments:** Laurie Forbes

**Programs:** Alexey Tretyakov

**Publicity:** Valerie Melanson

**Newsletter:** Melanie Norris

Thank you to the Victoria Orchid Society for inviting our members to attend the Zoom presentation by Bill Thoms on Bulbophyllums on January 25. It was a very entertaining and informative presentation. It was hosted seamlessly by Justin Dunning and appeared well attended by local orchid enthusiasts!



# The Best of 2020 - AOS Awards from the Western Canada Judging Centre



1. *Liparis parviflora* 'Tropical Gardens Orchids' - Calvin Wong
2. *Cattleya* (Jungle Jewel x Beau's Apricot Gem) - Daniel Kwok
3. *Cymbidium* Wong Tak Fai 'Billy' - Calvin Wong
4. *Dendrobium* Nora Tokunaga 'Paramount's Valerie & Gabychat' - Paramount Orchids
5. *Masdevallia wendlandiana* 'Thanks Chuck...' Alexey Tretyakov

6. Show Trophy 'Orchids From Afar' - CVIOS
7. Show Trophy 'Hey Rick, I miss you!'  
Exhibitor: Bryan Emery & Leda Bower
8. *Phragmipedium* Andean Fire 'Joelle's Smile'  
(*Phragmipedium besseae* x *Phragmipedium lindleyanum*). Exhibitor: Diana Rowles



## THE ORCHID CHALLENGE - BY BERNIE KESPE

Hi, my name is Bernie and it's been.....ah, wait, oops, wrong group! As I said, my name is Bernie and I joined the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society (CVIOS) almost three years ago to learn more about the care and cultivation of those truly magnificent plants.

In the past, prior to this COVID craziness, I, like most, looked forward to socializing at the monthly meetings listen to guest speakers (from commercial growers to professionals in horticulture specializing in orchids) or to just share our own experiences, be it good, or bad, all in an effort to expand our knowledge of growing orchids. Not long ago, I was member of the aviation community where it was said that it was better to learn from the mistakes of others than to make all the mistakes yourself - which is good advice given the price we pay for some of these plants. The show table of flowering plants always impressed me, and I hoped that one day, I too would be able to display some of my own blooming plants.

At the meetings, quite often I would find myself looking around and wondering how such a diverse group of people who have been growing orchids anywhere from 1 to 50 plus years got involved in this hobby, a question that never seems to come up. I'm sure that there are many stories out there - from some just jumping into the hobby while others transitioning to it as a winter filler from summer gardening. The commonality, however, is a love for all things flowering. So, without further ado, here is the story of my orchid journey.

Back in 2012, Ida and I had booked a well-deserved long vacation to Kona on the big Island of Hawai'i. The first week was just unbearably hot, even the locals were complaining. In desperation for some relief, I was able to book us a room for a couple of nights at the Volcano Inn in Volcano Village near the Kilauea Volcano. Volcano Village is a quaint little town located at 4000' ASL (above sea level) in a rain forest; the cooler weather up there was such a pleasant change from the searing heat of Kona.



*Volcano Room  
View from our room*

## THE ORCHID CHALLENGE (CONT)

*It cooled enough that evening that we actually used the fireplace.*



After checking in, we went for a walk on the trails around the property where we met up with Wilf and Lynne from Seattle. Wilf and I, both being pilots, had lots in common as did the girls with gardening. Later that evening at dinner Lynne suggested that we take a trip to the Akatsuki Orchid Gardens, it was only a couple of miles down the road and it would be interesting. Well, Wilf just rolled his eyes, I shrugged and said "Sure, I'm game" and Ida was like "YES flowers!"

Now, before I go any further, I should mention that up until that day, the only thing I had ever successfully cultivated were three cannabis plants back in 1969 during my college days. Orchids, although I knew of them, I had never given them any thought - come to think of it, I don't think I'd even seen one before that day.

The next morning, we arrived at the Akatsuki Orchid Gardens and were greeted at the door by this very pleasant young lady who promptly went into her sales pitch about all the various orchids they had and where we could find them. I sheepishly explained to her that I knew nothing about orchids, let alone how grow them.....well her eyes lit up and before I could say any more, she ushered us - Ida, Lynne and myself, (Wilf went out side to read a book), into the first green house and proceeded to give us the grand tour of the facility. As we strolled down each isle, she pointed out the various orchids naming each one and giving a brief history of how it was highbred or if it was a species. Several hours later, I was hooked and I mean hook, line and sinker. I had a half a dozen or so plants picked out: a couple of Oncidiums, a Dendrobium, a Cattleya or two, and a Zygopetalum (and a couple I'm sure I've forgotten about). I was so excited. At the sales counter, she asked me where I would like them shipped to, something I hadn't given any thought to; they weren't going to fit in any suitcase. Without skipping a beat, I proudly announced that I would like them shipped to Canada. At that point she stopped ringing in the plants and cancelled the sale, then proceeded to explain to me the Cities and why they can't ship to Canada. Going back to what I said in the last paragraph, this was probably a blessing in disguise. I felt bad about it all and walked away with only a book....Orchids for Dummies and I felt like one.

We finished off our holiday and back to Vancouver Island we went and orchids once again disappeared from my radar.

## THE ORCHID CHALLENGE (CONT)

Fast forward six years to February 2018, I'm now fully retired and spending a lot of time fishing and wood turning among other things, in general, keeping busy. One day, I came home from having coffee with a couple of fishing buddies and there, in the middle of the table, sat a Phalaenopsis orchid. At first, I was really puzzled because Ida hardly ever buys house plants. Ida, God bless her, loves to garden and she's pretty good at the outside stuff, but indoor plants.....not so good. She's the only person I know that can and has killed a cactus. The few African Violets we have are alive only because I water them once in a while.

Anyway, back to the orchid. Before I could say anything, Ida gave me a peck on the cheek and wished me a happy birthday. Well, imagine my surprise, I was speechless. What I was really hoping for was that Hardy fly reel that I'd been hinting about for so long and what the heck was I going to do with this orchid!



<-- This is what I was hoping for

This is what I got! -->



After staring at the plant for a while, I finally figured it out. I used to kid her about the cactus thing and she has finally figured out a way to get even! This was it, knowing that I have never grown anything. Well, since I rarely turn down a challenge, and not to be deterred, I started to research phalaenopsis orchid culture and 20 to 30 hours later, I was just as confused as when I started. There was everything from adding ice cubes to semi hydro and I was thrashing my way through it all. In the meantime, I was now checking out the grocery store orchids every time we went shopping and after two months, I went from one to four.

Two month later.



## THE ORCHID CHALLENGE (CONT)

One month after that, I discovered Paramount Orchids and down the rabbit hole I went.

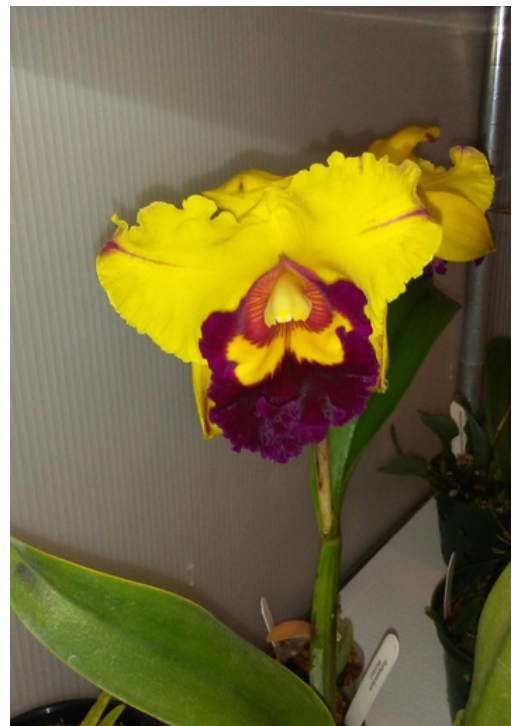
I think that Ida now regrets her decision for I now have somewhere in the neighbour hood of 70 plants that take up a good part of the dining room and a new terrarium in the works for the office. Our electric bill has jumped noticeably, and I continue to monopolize the computer for researching orchid culture.

So, this is my story on how I got started and how Ida has created for me a new obsession.

Here are just a few of the plants that have flowered for me over the past three years.



Odontocidium Tiger Crow  
'Golden Girl'  
( Odcdm Tiger Hambuhren x  
Odcdm Crowborough )



PRhyncholaeliocattleya Liu's  
Joyance 'Gold Pin'  
Ric. Chunyeah x Ric. Tainan  
Gold

THE ORCHID CHALLENGE (CONT)



*Bulbophyllum Mastersianum*

*Paphiopedilum Yi-Ying*  
Morning Sun  
(Hsinying Rainbow x Red  
Czar)



*Dendrobium trantuanii x sib*



*Phalaenopsis be Glad*  
'Peloric'  
(Phal Swiss Miss x Phal  
Cassandra)



*Masdevallia Confetti*  
(*Masdevallia strobilii* x  
*glandulosa*)



*Cattleya cernua*

# Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

## Membership Form

**CVIOS mailing address:** 556 Juniper Drive, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 2J2

**Website:** [www.cvios.org](http://www.cvios.org)    **Membership Contact:** Bernie at: CVIOS.bernie@shaw.ca

Household membership \$30.00 per year (Sept.-Aug.) CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CHEQUE \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for membership cards(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (This is needed for society correspondence)

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about CVIOS \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been growing orchids? \_\_\_\_\_

Where I grow my orchids: (check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_ Window sill

\_\_\_\_\_ Under lights

\_\_\_\_\_ Green house

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have (circle one) (0 - 10), (11 - 20), (20 - 35), (36 - 50), (50 - 100), (100+) orchid plants.

I hereby give permission to have the following included in the published membership list that will be distributed to members only.

Please check the ones you are willing to make public to the membership.

[ ] Name

[ ] Address

[ ] Phone number

[ ] email address

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please note if this section is not signed, we cannot list you as a member on the membership list