

CVIOS NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

February 2020

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:

2630 Randle Rd.

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Website: www.cvios.org

Email: Dora Glover, ragdg@shaw.ca

Newsletter Submissions: suzcur.sc@gmail.com

CVIOS EXECUTIVE 2018/19

President: Dora Glover

Past President: Laurie Forbes

Vice President: Leslie Milne

Treasurer and AOS Chair: Darlene Rathwell

Secretary & Newsletter: Suzanne Currie

Membership: Mike Miller

Plant Sales Table: Margaret Mann

Library: Michael DeLeur

Refreshments: Laurie Forbes

Programs: Alexey Tretyakov

Publicity: Sheila Wilson

Director at Large: Bryan Emery

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 16: CVIOS Meeting

Speaker: Tom Mirenda

Tom is a director at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden

February 29 - March 1: Victoria Orchid Society Show & Sale, the Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Dr., Victoria

March 7-8:

Mount Baker Orchid Society Show & Sale Skagit Valley Gardens, 18923 Peter Johnson Road, Mount Vernon, WA,

March 21 & 22 Vancouver Orchid Society Show & Sale, Van Dusen Botanical Garden

March 22: CVIOS Meeting

Speaker: Melanie Norris

Navigating Online Orchid Resources
Melanie updated the CVIOS website & facebook page

March 27 – 29: Orchid Society of Alberta "Orchid Fair 2020", Enjoy Centre, 101 Riel Drive, St. Albert, AB, Canada

April 26: CVIOS Meeting

May 24: CVIOS Meeting

June 21: CVIOS Meeting & AGM

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CVIOS UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 16: CVIOS Meeting

Speaker, Tom Miranda

Tom is formerly the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, and a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center, Tom is now a director at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden. In addition, he has contributed many publications and lectures to the orchid community worldwide.

INFORMATION

- February 16 refreshment reminder – Valerie, Margaret, Donna and Judy – and anyone who would like to contribute to the food table
- In this newsletter you will find photos from the January meeting, photos from the CVIOS Show, January minutes and an article entitled Wardian Cases and Terrariums and photos of CVIOS members terrariums and orchidariums
- To pre order orchids for pick up at the Vancouver show March 21 & 22 please visit http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/?page_id=530 and click on vendors for pre order instructions
- CVIOS now meets at the North Oyster Community Hall, 13467 Cedar Rd, 11:30 to 2:30. If anyone requires a ride to the meetings, please email Suzanne suzcur.sc@gmail.com

Abu Salleh visited in January and gave members a very informative information regarding AOS judging and what judges are looking for. Abu and Alexey present the show table. Photo by Melanie Norris



AOS Awards:

- **Quality Awards**
 - Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) ... 75 – 79 points
 - Award of Merit (AM) ... 80 – 89 points
 - First Class Certificate (FCC) ... 90+ points
- **Botanical/Horticultural Awards**
 - Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR) ... 2/3 vote
 - Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM) ... 80+ points
- **Cultural Awards**
 - Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) ... 80 – 89 points
 - Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) ... 90+ points
- **Others**
 - Judges' Commendation (JC) ... 75% vote
 - Award of Distinction (AD) ... unanimous w/o scoring
 - Award of Quality (AQ) ... (12 + 1) unanimous w/o scoring

The following photos are from the CVIOS show & sale. Thank you to the show committee and all the volunteers who work so hard to help make this show a success!

Photos by Juliane Thunander, Suzanne Currie and Judith Higham



Grand Champion
Cymbidium Wong Tak Fai 'Billy' AM/AOS
(*Cymbidium parishii* x *Cymbidium mastersii*)
Exhibitor: Calvin Wong | Tropical Gardens
Orchids



Reserve Champion
Masdevallia wendlandiana 'Thanks Chuck'
CCM/AOS 82 pts
Exhibitor: Alexey Tretyakov

Paramount Orchids and Alexey Tretyakov's beautiful orchids were given AOS awards at the show and CVIOS was awarded the show trophy for their display. The photos are below.

Dendrobium Nora Tokunaga 'Paramount's Valerie & Gabychat' HCC/AOS 76 pts, Exhibitor: Paramount Orchids



Masdevallia wendlandiana 'Thanks Chuck' CCM/AOS 82pts, Exhibitor: Alexey Tretyakov



Show Trophy 'Orchids from Afar' ST/AOS 83pts, Exhibitor: Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society



Thank you, volunteers!



AOS judging and the silent auction table



Various plants from the CVIOS display



The raffle winner, Sheila Orpen

CVIOS Minutes

January 26, 2020

Dora called the meeting to order at noon and introduced new member Norman Kent. She asked if all members had a chance to read the minutes of our last meeting on November 17 and if there were any changes required. Sean moved acceptance of the minutes and Michael seconded the motion.

Treasurer Report: Darlene indicate that our Postal Box expires at the end of January and after that date our mailing address will be 2630 Randle Rd Nanaimo V9S 3X2

Darlene then gave a financial summary for November and December. She moved acceptance of her report, Mike seconded the motion.

Michael indicated the latest Orchid Digest had arrived & was in our Library.

Mike pointed out that the membership cards were now available and noted that they need to be signed before we can get discounts on purchases.

Show Publicity: Sheila pointed out that It was very important to make sure all the posters taken by members were put up around our communities.

Upcoming Programs: Alexey let us know that the following programs have been planned:

February 16-Thomas Miranda a well known speaker & author on all things about orchids.

March 22-Melanie Norris "Searching For Orchids"

April 26-Wayne Riggs and Eugene Banzinger from Vancouver

May 24-Justine from Victoria

June 21- Our AGM

The balance of the meeting was a discussion about our upcoming show & the need for more volunteers, and timing of judging, set up etc.

Note: Refreshments for our February Meeting: Reminders to: Valerie, Margaret, Donna and Judy. In light of all the people who became new members at our show or who were invited to come to hear Thomas Miranda we may need extra goodies if anyone is interested in bringing

Wardian Cases and Terrariums



“This terrarium contains a petite yellow *Oncidium* and a multi-floral *Phalaenopsis*, a small ivy, a thick bed of living moss, and several sprigs of curly willow. The base uses a layer of river rock, sphagnum moss, and potting soil to help hydrate the greenery.” Photo Credit – Arthur Chadwick

Early European plant hunters trekking the jungles were often exasperated to learn that their shipments of tropical rarities were arriving home dead. The long sea voyages proved too much for the foliage which was inundated with salty air and insufficient light. This dire situation continued until 1829 when an English physician with an obsession for botany made a startling discovery.

Dr. Nathaniel Ward was a collector, amassing thousands of plants in his personal herbarium as well as countless insects in glass jars. In one tightly sealed bottle of moth cocoons, a tiny fern sprouted and, over the next few years, grew quite large. Ward observed that the moisture inside the vessel evaporated and condensed on the glass during the day only to run down the sides and feed the roots at night. A self-sustaining microenvironment had been created.

Ward proceeded to have two larger containers built, using glass and wood, which he filled with ferns and grasses for shipment to Australia. After months at sea, the plants arrived healthier than when they left. A return trip of Down Under species was equally successful. Ward published his findings in a book, “*On the Growth of Plants in Closely Glazed Cases*” and the word was out.

The new Wardian case, which bore his name, revolutionized commercial shipping of tender plantlets. Soon, Brazilian rubber tree seedlings were being sent to Sri Lanka, Chinese banana shoots to Fiji, and South American cinchona (quinine) to Asia. For the next century, millions of plants traversed the oceans safely.

In chic parlors of the wealthy, the Wardian case had another use. This version was ornate and designed to fit on a table top. Exotic fern collections were the first to use the case and the craze soon spread to orchids.

Today, we are seeing a rebirth of the Wardian Case but in a slightly different form. Orchids are now widely grown in the home and hobbyists are looking for ways to give their plants the best possible treatment. Winter is particularly challenging for epiphytes as modern HVAC systems dry out the air causing buds to shrivel and leaves to turn yellow.

Enter the orchid terrarium - a glass container that is open at the top to allow for air movement and, perhaps, a flower to stick out. Almost any shaped vessel will do. It just needs to be large enough to reach inside.

Miniature *Phalaenopsis* are popular with terrariums because these orchids prefer low light and the blossoms last for months. Another genus with similar care is *Paphiopedilums* or lady slippers which have a single pouchy bloom and decorative foliage. If the flower stem is taller than the container, just let it protrude. The petals will continue to receive humidity from inside.

There are many ways to assemble an orchid terrarium.

1. Most start by placing a blooming potted orchid plant on the bottom of the container. If there is ample room, add another orchid plant or a compact evergreen like ivy or fern.

2. Add three layers of filler around the pots starting with an inch of pea-sized river rocks for drainage. Then add a quarter inch barrier of damp sphagnum moss followed by an inch of potting soil for hydration.
3. Add a bed of fresh green moss and attach some mossy sprigs to the flower stems.
4. Finish it off with a few pieces of curly willow or other whimsical props.

Orchid Terrarium Care

Plants inside an orchid terrarium need much less water than normal since the container tends to hold moisture. Periodically, a heavy squirt from a hand sprayer should be sufficient.

Eventually, every orchid will lose its flowers but not to worry. Just remove the tired plant and add a fresh one. With modest effort, the magical world first discovered in Dr Ward's cocoon jar, will provide years of joy.



A variety of terrarium photos found online.



Alexey Tretyakov's orchidarium inside his home. It has a misting system and lighting as well as a fan for air circulation.



Valerie Melanson's terrarium display at the CVIOS orchid show and sale. Notice the humidity inside the terrarium.



Valerie's new case that she is working on now - a mini tall Xterra case with 7 Tolumnias and 2 Pleurothallis and another terrarium designed by Valerie



Sheila Wilson's fish tank terrarium. There is an LED bar light on top and the plants sit over water to provide humidity. The light bar keeps the temperature at 22 during the day.

If you would like more information for designing your own wardian, orchidarium or terrarium you can visit these sites:

<https://www.flowersfloralflorest.com/blog/orchid-terrarium/>

<https://howdidiyoumakethis.com/orchid-terrariums/>

<https://www.tallyorchid.org/orcharium/orcharium.htm>

<https://www.pumpkinbeth.com/2017/09/building-an-orchidarium>

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

Membership Form

CVIOS mailing address: 2630 Randle Rd, Nanaimo, B.C., V9S 3X2, **Website:** www.cvios.org, **Membership Contact:** stelmike@telus.net

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

Name(s) for membership card(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

_____ Windowsill

_____ Under Lights

_____ Greenhouse

_____ Other _____

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

I hereby give permission to have my name address, phone number and email address included in the published membership list that will be distributed to members only

I _____ GIVE _____ DO NOT GIVE permission for publication

_____ Date _____

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