

CVIOS NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

October 2017

CVIOS Meeting 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

Mailing Address:

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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:

October 21: CVIOS Meeting
& Bag Draw

November 8 – 12 World
Orchid Conference in
Guayaquil Ecuador

November 18: Visit to
Paramount Orchids in
Parksville

December 9: Christmas Party

January 20: Meeting

February 17: Meeting & Bag
Draw

March 17: Meeting

April 21: Meeting

May 26: Plant Sale

June 16: Last Meeting until
September

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CVIOS UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 21 Meeting: There will be a bag draw at this meeting. Please bring an item or 2 or a few for the draw!

Saturday's presentation will be "Orchids Winter Care"

Winter is coming (faster than in Game of Thrones) and that is always a challenging period for orchid growers. Laurie Forbes and Donna McDonnell will share their experience in keeping orchids happy

throughout winter under greenhouse conditions. Constance Gordon-Webster and Juliane Thunander will talk about growing on windowsill and under lights in winter.

INFORMATION:

- ❖ There is a bag draw Saturday Oct 21 please bring an item or 2 or a few for the draw
- ❖ The CVIOS membership form is on the next page. It can also be found on the website at www.cvios.org. The membership fee off \$25 is due now and can be paid at the meeting
- ❖ Please return overdue library materials as Mike is trying to organize the library
- ❖ Refreshments reminder for October: Clementine, Connie, Alexey and Bob. Thank you to Dora, Sheila, Keith, and Mary for their tasty treats in September
- ❖ AOS judging schedule is on page 4
- ❖ AOS Article: "Light, the Key to Successful Blooming" is on the last page



Some images from the CVIOS Show & Sale Sept 29 to Oct 1 at Nanaimo North Town Center

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Membership Form

2017-2018

Society mailing Address: P.O. Box 1061, Nanaimo, B.C., V9R 5Z2, web site: www.cvios.org

Household membership \$25.00 per year (Sept.-Aug.) _____

Meetings are held September through June on the Saturday near the middle of the 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.

Contact: Dora Glover, Membership Chairperson (250) 754-9634

Date _____

.....

Name(s) for membership card(s)

Mailing Address

Postal Code _____

Phone number _____

Email address for newsletter _____

Where I grow my orchids ___ Windowsill CHECK ONE OR MORE

___ 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. (CROSS OUT ONE PLEASE) Date _____

Signed _____

Please note if this section is not filled in we cannot list you as a member in the membership list.

AOS JUDGING SCHEDULE

One of our commitments to orchid exhibitors is to provide opportunities to have your orchids evaluated, and to allow more exhibitors and society members to observe monthly judging processes.

To this goal, we are going to split our monthly judging's to be held both in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. We have secured a convenient venue in the Victoria area, as well as maintaining our meeting place at Sea Island Community Centre. For the remainder of 2017, below is the schedule of monthly judging dates, time and locations. This schedule is also reflected in the AOS Events page on their website (<http://www.aos.org/news-events/event-calendar.aspx>) and reminders will be included in the judging newsletters that we send out. Orchid society personnel, please feel free to share this with your society members. Just as exhibitors on Vancouver Island have been sending plants with judges coming over to the Lower Mainland for monthly judging's for evaluation, Lower Mainland judges will be glad to take plants from exhibitors over to the Island when a monthly judging is being held in Victoria. We look forward to welcoming new exhibitors and observers both on Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland at our monthly meetings! (also to AOS Affiliated Societies, if your society would like to hold an "AOS Outreach Judging" session at your society's meeting, please contact me and we can work out details)

Lower Mainland judging location:

Sea Island Community Centre : 7140 Miller Rd, Richmond BC V7B 1L4

Vancouver Island judging location:

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary : 3873 Swan Lake Rd, Victoria, BC V8X 3W1

AOS JUDGING DATES:

September 2017:

The Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging in September will be held on Friday, September 29 at the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Show & Sale at Nanaimo North Town Center. CVIOS show judging starts at 9:30 am followed by AOS nominations at 11 am

(there will NOT be a separate monthly judging at the Sea Island Community Centre / Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary on September 9)

October 2017:

The Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging in October, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale at the George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd Ave., Langley, BC

(there will NOT be a separate monthly judging at the Sea Island Community Centre / Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary on October 14).

November 2017:

Date, Saturday, November 18, Time : 1:00pm (after business meeting), Venue : **Swan Lake Sanctuary**

November 2017: *(WCJC semi-annual business meeting November 18 – 19)*

(third weekend in November since second is long weekend and WOC)

December 2017:

Date, Saturday, December 9, Time : 11:30am, Venue : **Sea Island Community Centre**

CVIOS MEETING MINUTES, September 23, 2017

President Laurie Forbes brought the meeting to order at 12:05pm. Our guest speaker is Glen Decker from Piping Rock Orchids

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Mike Miller moved to accept minutes, Constance Gordon-Webster second. Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

3 AOS Bulletins and 1 Orchid Digest

2017/2018 BUDGET

The draft budget was reviewed. Budget may be tweaked. AOS show will be separated from other CVIOS expenses and revenue and will now show on a separate line in the budget. Bryan Emery moved to accept draft budget, Sheila Wilson second. Motion carried

TREASURERS REPORT: Income and expenses reviewed. Dora Glover moved to accept, Bryan Emery seconded. Motion carried

MEMBERSHIP

Fill out the membership form and bring to the next meeting or the show along with the \$25 fee. Name tags are \$10

FUNDRAISING:

CVIOS is looking for members fundraising ideas. Darlene Rathwell's idea is a spring garden plant sale in May. CVIOS can sell any type of plants, seeds, seedlings etc. Suzanne Currie offered to host it at her home garden/greenhouse. CVIOS may make up posters to advertise and ask for an entry donation.

Other ideas were to make up name tags for members with a picture of an orchid on them. A 2018 Calendar, A raffle of plants at the show or plant sale in May.

Alexey can prepare a draft for a 2018 calendar and CVIOS will find a printer

CVIOS SHOW

Members were asked to please take posters to advertise the show. Shaw TV filed a segment advertising the show at Dora's greenhouse. It will be airing next week and there is a link on the CVIOS website. There are sponsorship sheets to cover cash prizes for best in classes. Members please donate. Volunteers are needed as well as blooming orchids

FRASER VALLEY SHOW AND SALE OCTOBER 14 & 15

Drop orchids off at Laurie's or Dora's before Thursday October 12. Suzanne will send a reminder email. Mike and possibly Angie will be taking the plants to Vancouver. Plants need to be pre-registered. If anyone is interested in carpooling to show email Suzanne

WEBSITE: If members have any ideas for the website, please email or give Don and he will post it online

PROGRAMS

October – Winter Orchid Care, November – visit to Paramount Orchids, December – Christmas Party Fred Clark is speaking in Victoria in November. A carpool can be organized – will bring up again in October

LIBRARY: Mike will send an email survey to members to get a sense of what they would like to see happen with the library. An idea is to sell older library books and magazines and use the money to buy new library materials. **Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm**

Light, the Key to Successful Blooming



The plant on the left has received enough light to produce flowers while the one on the right has not. Note the difference in leaf color.

While there are many factors that can trigger blooming in orchids; a drop in night temperature, increase or decrease in day length and even sharp restriction in water availability, none of these will be successful unless your orchids have been grown with adequate light. For most hobbyists, this factor is almost always at the heart of the question "Why won't my orchids rebloom?" You can't work magic or miracles and without adequate light during the growing season, no amount of cajoling with decreased nitrogen, abusive cold nights, dehydration, or similar abuse will result in flowering. If you have noticed a general decline in the number of your plants that flower, it's highly likely that the amount of light you have reaching your growing area has decreased. Don't forget that trees and landscaping grow as well and can eventually shade windows. I was once asked at a basic orchid culture class why one of the attendee's vandas no longer flowered. She explained to me that the first year she had amazing results, somewhat less the following year, last season only those on the outside edges bloomed and in the present season virtually none had flowered. My answer was she didn't have enough light. This prompted her to re-ask the question and insist there was plenty of light as the arbor had been especially constructed for her vandas. The second time she rejected my answer I asked if she'd trimmed the vines growing on the arbor. When she asked me how I knew she had planted vines, I said "you don't have enough light."



Ideally, most orchids should have light green foliage

So, what is adequate light? While the actual levels vary with the genus, in general orchid foliage should be a light yellow-green rather than a lush sort of grass green. In addition, the leaves of your plants should be firm and stand upright. Even *Phalaenopsis* which need relatively low light will, depending on the genetic background of the plant, hold their foliage horizontally or somewhat upright and plants that produce very long, floppy leaves are being grown under insufficient light. Think of the leaves being the plant-equivalent of solar collectors. The lower the light, the bigger the leaves need to be to gather the same amount of light; the heavier the leaves the harder it will be to hold them firm and upright.

There are several ways to gauge the light your plants are receiving and you can't really trust your eyes. Our eyes are designed to effectively adjust to the light they receive. Your local supermarket may appear to be very brightly lit when, in fact, the actual light level is less than 500 foot-candles (*Phalaenopsis* need at least 2-3 times that level for adequate growth and flowering) and your office environment is typically about 1/5 of that level. While the most accurate way to measure light levels is to purchase a light meter you can get a pretty good estimate using just your hand. On a clear day, position yourself so that your hand is between your plants and the light source and about 12 inches from the leaves and observe the shadow, if any, your hand casts. If you can see no shadow, you probably do not have enough light for any orchids with the exception of the jewel orchids which are grown more for their leaves than flowers. If the shadow is fuzzy and faint (below left) to moderate your light level should be sufficient for *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilum* which require less light than most orchids. If the shadow you see is sharp (below right), you most likely have sufficient light for all but the highest light-requiring orchids like cymbidiums, vandas and ascocendas.



Don't let anyone tell you that you can't grow a mixed collection of orchids. Hobbyists do it all the time. They just take advantage of the variation in conditions throughout their growing areas. As far as light levels are concerned, direct sunlight entering an unshaded window can be as high as 4,000 to 8,000 footcandles measured directly at the glass while it may only be as low as 500 footcandles just inside the shade off to the side of the same window. Lower light plants like *Paphiopedilum* and *Phalaenopsis* can be staged in these shady areas while higher light plants like oncidiums and cattleyas can be arranged closer to the center and nearer the glass. It just takes a little experimentation.

Quality versus Quantity

Plants need red and blue light and they reflect green. Light from the red end of the spectrum is critical for flowering while that from the blue end is used in growth. This is usually not a problem when plants are grown out-of-doors or in a greenhouse unless the greenhouse skin is very old and has yellowed to the point that the spectral quality is poor. However, for plants grown under lights, this can be an important factor and is the reason that many books recommend a mixture of 50:50 cool-white and warm-white fluorescent tubes in the light rack. Spectral quality can also be an issue

if you are growing your plants in a sunroom glazed with bronze or other colored glass since these glazing materials may filter out much of the spectrum used by plants.

Duration

Longer is not always better. First, plants need a night just as we do. They are adapted to the daily cycle of the sun and different parts of their metabolic cycle are accomplished during light and dark periods. In addition, many orchids, especially species, are adapted to changes in day length. This is called photoperiodicity. Fall-blooming cattleyas flower as day length shortens while spring-blooming ones as day length increases. If these plants are grown under conditions of constant day length they may never flower. The old cattleya cut-flower growers used this knowledge to time flowering for important holidays and it's used today by Poinsettia growers for the Christmas market. Why is this important to the hobby grower? It's really quite simple. While a street light outside your greenhouse or living room window will produce such little light that being on all night won't matter that's not the case for lights in your growing area. If your only choice for a growing area is one that is lit late into the night, it would be best to concentrate on those plants like *Phalaenopsis* that flower without regard to day length.



Too much sunlight will burn an orchid's leaves: too Much Light

Unlike too little light whose effects are often insidious, the opposite can be true of too much light. Too much light, especially if it's a sudden change usually results in dramatic damage (sunburn) in very little time. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. Plants chronically exposed to too much light but not enough to cause sunburn will be stunted with yellow, hard foliage. If the problem is caught before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.

This is one area of orchid culture where you want to make changes SLOWLY. Orchids are easily sunburned if light levels rise too fast. When moving plants around, especially when bringing them outdoors after winter, err on the side of excess shade. Make changes when you are going to be home and can watch the plants. Feel the leaves. The palm of your hand is about 93F. If they are hot to the touch, the leaf temperature is well about 95F and serious damage can occur in very little time