



Orchidata

Message from the Executive

Coming up is one of my personal favorite monthly meets, the Christmas Auction. For those that have not attended before, we ask Pat Vuurman to be the auctioneer and help raise some funds for the society. Society members bring in any orchids related items especially plants in bloom then Pat auctions them off to the highest bidder. So clean up those extra plants or dig out any other orchid related paraphernalia and bring it to the meet and we will do the rest. The auction is an excellent way to donate to the society and maybe even get a plant that you normally wouldn't try out.

The second part of the meet is all about socializing and sharing some treats. It's great opportunity to talk to members and have a chance to show off those baking /cooking talents but keep in mind because we don't have a kitchen we ask that the treats you bring do not require heating or preparing.

So bring your treats and auction items and come have a great time!

Our annual show is also coming up quickly and volunteers are needed, without them the show simply cannot happen. Since we have quite a few members I thought I'd briefly explain some of the volunteer positions needed:

- -Security Guard: ensure patrons do not disturb the plant display
- -Membership/Information desk: register new/renewing members and give general show information
- -Ribbon Judging Clerk: Aid the Judges with ribbon judging (great way to learn what judges are after)
- -Society Sales Table: Operate the society plant sales table. Selling plants members have contributed.

December 2015

- -Plant Doctor: mostly answer the most asked question about orchids, how do rebloom my Phal and how/when do I repot it
- -Society's display: Putting up or taking down the society's display
- -Saturday night dinner: Help set tables, put out wine, arrange the food (not cook it) and general party arrangements

We will have the sign-up sheets at the December meeting and feel free any of the executive about how or what to enroll in.

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for 2016!!

Drew

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Date	Location
December 13, 2015	Room 5
January 17, 2016	Room 5
February 21, 2016	Room 5
February 27& 28, 2016	Annual Show Date
March 13, 2016	Room 5
April 17, 2016	Room 5
May 15, 2016	Room 5
June 12, 2016	Room 5
July 2016	President's Picnic
August 21, 2016	Room 5
September 18, 2016	Room 5
October 16, 2016	Room 5
November 20, 2016	Room 5

Windsor Orchid Show Report

By Pat Vuurman

The final orchid show for the OSRBG in 2015 was in Windsor at the end of October. The set-up volunteers – Cindy and Ben Boers, Lynda and Pat Vuurman put together a very attractive display of 30 orchids that garnered a 3rd place ribbon amongst the societies at the show. Thank you to Peter van Loon, Doris Jensen, Greta Culley, Jocelyn Webber, Ed Drury, Sherry and Peter Decyk, Cindy and Ben Boers, Lynda and Pat Vuurman and the RBG for allowing your valuable plants to be part of the display. Further ribbon results are:

1st place ribbons:

Phalaenopsis no name – also won Best of no name orchids – Ed Drury

Cattlianthe Barefoot Mailman (C. briegeri x Ctt. Madge Fordyce) – Ed Drury

Oncidium Catatante 'Sun King' (Spacetante x Wildcat) – Ed Drury

Cycnoches Sevenfold (warscewiczii 'Giant Swan' x Swan Cascade) – Doris Jensen

Catttleya no name – Jocelyn Webber

Aerides lawrenceae – Sherry and Peter Decyk

Bulbophyllum laxiflorum – Sherry and Peter Decyk

Dendrochilum cootesii - Sherry and Peter Decyk

Cattlianthe Isle of Skye 'Nereid' (Sir Jeremiah Colman x C. Purity) – Cindy & Ben Boers

Dendrobium Chao Praya Smile (Pinky x Kiyomi Beauty) – Cindy & Ben Boers

Phalaenopsis King Car Little Coffee (Sogo Yenlin x King Car Little Berry) – Lynda & Pat Vuurman

Phragmipedium (Incan Treasure x kovachii)

=({kovachii x longifolium} x kovachii) –

Lynda & Pat Vuurman

2nd place ribbons:

Laelioattleya Angel Heart 'Hihimanu' (Puppy Love x C. Penny Kuroda) – Sherry & Peter Decyk

Malleola constricta – Sherry & Peter Decyk

Paphiopedilum Zanzibar (Actaeus x Xantippe) – Cindy & Ben Boers

Phragmipedium Inca Rose (besseae x Pink Panther) – Lynda & Pat Vuurman

Brassolaelia Petite Stars (Bl Richard Mueller x L rubescens) – RBG

3rd place ribbons:

Cymbidium Green Apple – Jocelyn Webber Paphiopedilum St. Swithin (philippinense x rothschildianum) – Jocelyn Webber Phragmipedium Mini Grande (humboldtii x pearcei) — Jocelyn Webber

Paphiopedilum Joseito (Nike's Sunny Delight x Pinocchio) – Peter van Loon

Cycnodes Wine Delight (Cyc. lehmannii x Morm. sinuata) – Sherry & Peter Decyk

Cattleya maxima – RBG

Upcoming Events

<u>December 13, 2015</u> – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. <u>Programme:</u> Auction & Holiday Social

<u>January 17, 2016</u> – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. <u>Programme:</u> AOS Judging

<u>February 13& 14, 2016</u> – Southern Ontario Orchid Society Annual Show, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario

<u>February 21, 2016</u> – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. Programme: TBA

<u>February 27 & 28, 2016</u> – OSRBG Annual Show. Setup for show is on Friday, February 26, 2016.

<u>March 13, 2016</u> – OSRBG General Meeting, The Annex. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. <u>Programme</u>: Repotting Session

March 19& 20, 2016 – Les Orchidophiles de Montreal Orchidexpo 2016, CÉGEP de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere Street, Montreal, Quebec

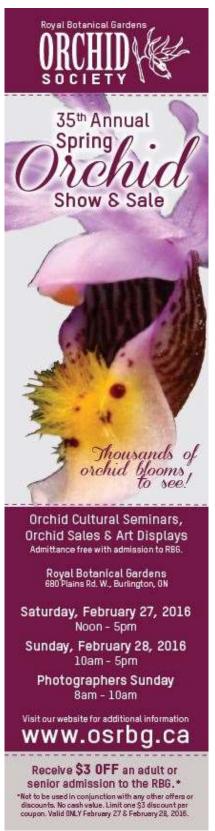
April 9 & 10, 2016 – Toronto Artistic Orchid Society Annual Show Centre for Information and Community Service (CICS), 2330 Midland Road, Scarborough, Ontario

April 16 & 17, 2016 – Ottawa Orchid Society 35th Annual Show and Sale, RA centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

<u>April 17, 2016</u> – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm &Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. Programme: TBA

Our Annual Show

Mark it on your calendar:
Our show is on February 27 & 28, 2016!



'So there you are!' Britain's rarest wildflower the ghost orchid returns from the dead after 23 years

By Michael McCarthy



It is the most mysterious wildflower in Britain, the strangest, the rarest, the hardest to see, and it was given up for lost. But like a wandering phantom, the ghost orchid has reappeared.

After an absence of 23 years, during which it was declared extinct, this pale, diminutive flower, the most enigmatic of all Britain's wild plants, rematerialised last autumn in an oak wood in Herefordshire.

Its sighting, initially kept a close secret, has electrified the British botanical community. Forget your black tulip. This has been British botany's holy grail, searched for annually and ardently by a small army of enthusiasts for more than two decades, but never found.

Its eventual rediscovery was due to the painstaking detective work of an amateur botanist, Mark Jannink, who identified 10 possible sites in the Welsh borders and visited them regularly throughout the summer, until on 20 September he found a single example of Epigogium aphyllum, bearing a single white flower on a white stem only five centimetres tall.

The plant was so unobtrusive that it was invisible from a few yards away. On spotting it, Mr Jannink exclaimed: "Hello you – so there you are!"

There had been no previous ghost orchid sighting in Britain since a single plant was found in Buckinghamshire in 1986. It was officially declared extinct in Britain's Red Data List in 2005.

Mr Jannink, 42, who runs a motorbike company in Malvern, Worcestershire, and has been a wildflower enthusiast since his childhood, said yesterday: "To be honest, I was ready to give up, and the feeling when I saw it was of relief more than anything. It was the following day I felt the euphoria."

The species is hard to find because it does not appear every year and behaves more like a fungus than a flower, according to the naturalist Peter Marren, author of Britain's Rare Flowers.

"It has no green leaves," Mr Marren said. "It doesn't depend on photosynthesis at all, and it doesn't manufacture its own food.

"Instead, the food is manufactured for it by a fungus on its roots. It lives largely underground; in fact it can live underground without flowering properly for years on end, and it only flowers when conditions are just right."

Mr Marren added that when it does bloom, the ghost orchid flowers in the thick leaf-mould in the darkest parts of the woodland, where there is no other vegetation.

"It's the hardest British flower to see," he said. "It looks extraordinary. It produces these flowers without chlorophyll which in the dim light look like ghosts, and if you shine a torch beam on them they appear to be translucent white in the pitch darkness, almost like a photographic negative."

He described the rediscovery as "terrific news", adding: "It's one of the most fascinating flowers."

A remarkable irony of the rediscovery is that last September, in the very month in which the plant was found – but before the finding was made public – the ghost orchid was chosen as the symbol of a new conservation campaign because of its presumed extinction.

Plantlife, the wild flower charity, called its new manifesto for preventing wild flowers from disappearing The Ghost Orchid Declaration. "The rediscovery of a single ghost orchid is wonderful news," one of the declaration's authors, Dr Trevor Dines, said yesterday.

My audience with a rare orchid

In mystique, there is only one other flower in the whole of the British flora with which the ghost orchid, Epigogium aphyllum, can be compared, and that is another orchid species – the lady's slipper.

For more than half a century, only a single plant of this purple and yellow bloom existed and during its flowering season it was guarded around the clock at its secret location. Orchid fanciers had reduced it to the very brink of extinction.

After a series of requests, a tense meeting with the guardians and promises to maintain absolute secrecy, your correspondent was permitted to see Cyprepedium calceolus in 2004. It was a fantastic privilege – but I have to say that catching sight of the ghost orchid might be a greater privilege still.

Courtesy of The Independent

http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/so-there-you-are-britains-rarest-wildflower-the-ghost-orchid-returns-from-the-dead-after-23-years-1923853.html

Preparing Orchids for Winter

By Susan Jones

The onset of shorter days and longer, colder nights heralds winter's arrival. Many factors play into keeping your orchids happy and healthy through this time — finding the right combination of variables can be tricky, especially for beginners. The phrase "proper prior planning" is appropriate here; doing so will help your orchids to reach their greatest potential and increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

Generally, temperatures between 50° and 80° F (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant and its genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.



During the winter, flowering orchids brighten well-lit windowsills. On cold nights, it's a good idea to move plants away from the window or use bubble wrap as insulation between the pane and the plants.

Cold Injury

Symptoms indicating cold damage usually become visible some days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.

The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate the appearance of symptoms.

Chilling

Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity, heat stress and light stress, and as such may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury include surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slowerthan- normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.

Freezing

Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves, and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by very warm temperatures.

The Basics

Preparation for weathering winter's chills begins at the point of purchasing your orchids. Choose carefully for the growing conditions you are able to provide your plants. If you keep your home or greenhouse cool in the winter to save on heating costs, avoid the warmergrowing genera such as phalaenopsis and vanda. Instead, stick to intermediate- (most brassavolas, cattlevas, dendrobiums, epidendrums, laelias or mottled-leaved paphiopedilums) or cooler-growing (cymbidiums, masdevallias, miltonias, odontoglossums, oncidiums, plain-leaved paphiopedilums or sophronitis) orchids, depending on the conditions they will be grown under during the summer months. White or yellow vandas, as well as some dendrobiums (phalaenopsis-and antelopetypes), are especially cold sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60° F (16° C), and can be particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cooler temperatures. Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are also much more sensitive to chills than their mature counterparts.

Another consideration for growers in northern climes is the shorter day length winter brings. Many orchids need 14 hours of light every day to flower successfully. Relying on daylight alone during winter months will not provide sufficient light to induce budding. Genera with high light requirements may produce healthy green foliage but without sufficient illumination might never reward their growers with the desired flowers. For indoor and greenhouse growers in the north, supplemental lighting may be necessary for optimal plant health and flowering. Depending on the type of light source chosen, the heat generated by the lamps may help counteract cold temperatures.

When adding to an orchid collection, choosing carefully to match the conditions you are able to provide as a grower will go a long way toward keeping your orchids in optimal health through winter's gloom and chills.

Once they're comfortably situated in your collection, cultural factors to consider in keeping them happy through the winter months include less frequent watering and fertilization. It is worth the extra effort to read up on the seasonal needs of the orchids in your collection. This is especially important for the species, but hybrids will benefit from this research as well. Some enter a period of partial or full dormancy; they will require a rest period at this time of year, and could be adversely affected if they

do not receive one. As temperatures drop and daylight is reduced, their growth slows down or even stops, depending on the species or hybrid. The quantities of water and fertilizer they required for spring and summer growth are no longer needed and could negatively affect the plant unless reduced accordingly. Excess water can accelerate the breakdown of organic growing media (such as pine bark and sphagnum moss) and lead to root and plant rots. A surplus of fertilizer can accumulate in the growing media until the fertilizer salts burn the orchid's root and leaf tips, and actually inhibit rather than enhance growth.



Although winter requires preparation by the orchid grower, the shorter days are exactly what initiates bud development for seasonal species such as *Cattleya trianae*.

Windowsill

Because they have less control over the quality and amount of lighting reaching their plants than under-lights growers, windowsill growers face special considerations during the winter months. The day length is shorter in the northern latitudes, so supplemental lighting may be needed for part of the day to maintain a comfortable daynight balance for the plants. At this time of year, the sun's angle is lower on the horizon and may no longer be shaded by trees that have lost their leaves for the winter. A fresh snowfall can also reflect a great deal more light than normal. A sheer curtain may be needed to protect your plants from sunburn at these times.

At night, a heavy curtain between the window and your orchids can act as an insulating barrier to help keep the nighttime temperatures from damaging sensitive tropical plants. Thermopane windows will also help — their two panes of glass separated by an air pocket are good for both orchids and heating bills in the winter time. Even sheets of bubble wrap covering the glass will help keep warmth in and winter chills out. Never allow the foliage

to touch the glass; condensation can freeze on the windowpane and kill your orchid's leaves.

Good air movement will help maintain temperatures as well. A fan to circulate the air around the window helps keep temperatures uniform, and distributes and circulates heat from heaters or other sources to keep the growing area closer to the ambient temperature of the room rather than the cold outside.

Greenhouses

Properly planned, a greenhouse may be constructed and oriented to minimize the effects of winter's chill on your orchids. The use of twin-walled instead of single-layered glazing materials adds insulation and reduces heat loss through the greenhouse exterior. Double-layered materials are also better able to withstand the weight of accumulated snow in the wintertime (but never allow the snow to remain on the greenhouse or it may cause damage). Attached greenhouses (those with one or more walls attached to a building), partially excavated and earthsheltered greenhouses retain heat better than freestanding models, and so cause growers less difficulty and expense to heat. Because one or more sides are opaque, attached and earth-sheltered greenhouses do not generally receive as much sunlight as a freestanding greenhouse.

Orientation

the direction of the greenhouse roof relative to the sun's movement — allows growers to take best advantage of available light. During the cold months, to optimize winter growing conditions, an eastwest orientation will allow the greatest amount of sunlight to reach your orchids through the shortest days of the year. This must be balanced with the needs of your orchids, the layout of your property, trees that might shade the greenhouse, etc. For maximum year-round exposure, a greenhouse with a north-south orientation is a better choice.

The next step is critical. Provide "backup, backup, backup and alarms," says Jan Szyren, horticulturist and greenhouse coordinator for Michigan State University. As Szyren notes, an alarm system is critical for notifying growers if the greenhouse temperature should fall below a certain level, as is a backup heating system. Supplemental heating need not maintain optimal temperatures, but protect the orchids from cold damage during a power outage or unusually cold temperatures. Should disaster strike and temperatures drop, try to keep your growing area above 45° F (7° C) at minimum. Gas- or dieselpowered generators, generator fuel and long, heavy duty extension cords for heating appliances and fans to distribute the heat are available at most home-

improvement centers to heat your greenhouse during an emergency. Automated systems are available; manual systems are less expensive, but require that someone be on hand to operate them.

Kerosene or propane heaters are another option for supplemental heat if the power goes off, but their fumes that can damage flowers quickly, and to a lesser extent affect plants as well. In addition, these should never be used in attached greenhouses, as the fumes are toxic to people and animals. Greenhouses in which this equipment has been used should be ventilated before being reentered.

Ann Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut adds to and emphasizes the importance of seasonal preparation — "going over the greenhouse to check for and seal any air leaks, have the alarms, furnace and heating system tested, and," she adds, "pray that the temperatures are not going to drop (in the greenhouse, anyway ...)."

As a last resort, moving your collection or your most treasured and cold-sensitive plants indoors temporarily may be an option. While they do not provide optimal growing conditions, homes are much better equipped to keep out the cold than greenhouses. This step can make the critical difference between plant survival and plant loss, so optimal culture can be foregone for a few days until the danger of freezing passes. If your collection is too large to bring indoors in its entirety, grouping those that would be moved indoors together or marking them with a special, brightly colored, easily identifiable tag can save time and plants as temperatures drop. Plastic sheeting or tarps can protect indoor surfaces and furniture from damage from dirt and dampness that comes in with the orchids.

After the Fact

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners. Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, keep the medium moist and give them a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full compliment of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting, apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue with your weekly liquid food program.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

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Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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Phalaenopsis lindenii By: Drew Goddard

Membership

Memberships were due June 1, 2015.

You can renew you membership at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing your cheque to:

Yvette Mondésir 3010 Silverthorn Drive Oakville, ON L6L 5N6 e-mail: ydesir521@gmail.com

Membership Fee: \$20.00

Receive a \$5.00 discount if you would like to receive the Orchidata newsletter via e-mail.

Greenhouse Volunteers Needed

As you may know, the Orchid Society maintains the collection of orchids in the RBG greenhouse. This is a significant commitment which cannot be carried out without the help of volunteers.

Currently a group of volunteers meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to noon, more or less, and another group meets on Sunday mornings from about 10 until 12:30. This schedule is dictated by watering requirements. Volunteers are currently being sought for both these teams. "On the job" training is provided if needed.

In addition to watering, volunteers look after repotting the orchids, cleaning any plants that are being attacked by pests, removing dead leaves, sterilizing pots and other equipment, preparing plants for display and many other small but important tasks.

Volunteers are not required to attend every week, but some commitment to the collection should be demonstrated. If you are able to devote some time to helping us maintain the orchids, please contact Pat Vuurman (pvuurman@hotmail.com) regarding the Thursday group, or Denise MacLeod (pmacleod5@cogeco.ca) if you can volunteer on Sundays.

Flasking Group

Anyone interested in flasking please give Ben Boers, Pat Vuurman or Bob Gibbon a call for details

2015 – 2016 Executive & Contacts

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Honorary Lifetime Member

Dr. James Brasch

Membership and Address Changes

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Orchidata Deadline for the January / February Newsletter is January 6, 2016

Please note that Orchidata news and orchid society newsletters should be sent to:

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