



Orchidata

The President's Message

February 2015

I can't believe it's February already and by the time you read this our Orchid Show will be imminent. There is so much to be done at the last minute; if you haven't already volunteered to do something, please contact me or any member of the executive to find out how you might be able to contribute. Remember, all volunteers are invited to the dinner on the Saturday night of the Show (along with vendors and judges).

As you may know, the Show is a good time to check your membership status. Although memberships are not due until the beginning of June, there is a "Show Special" that allows you to renew in advance and thus lock in your fees at the current rate until June 2016. For new members, it means they also get three months free, so if you know someone who is thinking of joining, this is worth mentioning. Jacquie Goddard, our membership secretary, advises me that there are still a few members who have not renewed for 2014-2015; as this is probably just an oversight, please do check your membership status. It's especially relevant if you are planning to sell orchids on the Society Sales Table; your membership must be in good standing prior to the Show. [Just realized that the above comment is a bit of a non-starter: if you haven't renewed for the past year, you won't be reading this because you won't have received the password. So let me re-phrase: if anyone complains to you that they haven't seen Orchidata recently, suggest that they check their membership status!]

Jacquie had some good news for me recently as well. Since September, four new members have joined the Society. This was not a big surprise for me as I have been fielding information requests coming in via our new website, a number of which pertained to membership. Once again, I would like to give a pat on the back to Drew Goddard for getting this website up and running; it is proving to be a useful tool in member recruitment.


I encourage everyone to make the new members welcome at our meetings as well.

Right now, Drew is fully occupied—along with Pat Vuurman, Linda Will, Robert Johnston and Ben Boers—in getting a plant registration program fine-tuned so that it can go up on the web and exhibitors can use it to enter plant data in advance. I sat in on one of the meetings and I can assure you that this is not an easy task. In order to make it appear easy, a lot of background work has to be done. In particular, Pat had a week where he spent every waking hour updating a plant list to be incorporated in the program. The good news is that once it's done, we should only need to tweak it for subsequent Shows.

Lauren Booklin is working hard at the moment on the "Art" section of the Orchid Show, but as soon as that is over, she will be back wearing her other hat as our Programming Chair. If there are topics you are especially interested in learning about, especially if you can suggest a person as a potential speaker on that topic, please speak to Lauren directly, or channel the information through me or any other member of the Executive.

See you at the Show!

Wendy

Royal Botanical Gardens
ORCHID SOCIETY 

34th Annual
 Spring
Orchid
 Show & Sale

*Thousands of
 orchid blooms
 to see!*

Orchid Cultural Seminars,
 Orchid Sales & Art Displays
 Admittance free with admission to RBG.

Royal Botanical Gardens
 880 Plains Rd. W., Burlington, ON

Saturday, February 28, 2015
 Noon - 5pm

Sunday, March 1, 2015
 10am - 5pm

Photographers Sunday
 8am - 10am

Visit our website for additional information
www.osrbg.ca

Receive **\$3 OFF** an adult or
 senior admission to the RBG.*

*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers or
 discounts. No cash value. Limit one \$3 discount per
 coupon. Valid ONLY February 28 & March 1, 2015.

Monthly Meeting Schedule OSRBG

Date	Locations
February 22, 2015	Room 5
February 28 & March 1, 2015	Annual Show Date
March 29, 2015	The Annex
April 19, 2015	Room 5
May 24, 2015	Room 5
June 14, 2015	Room 5
July 2015	President's Picnic
August 16, 2015	Room 5
September 20, 2015	Room 5
October 18, 2015	Room 5
November 15, 2015	Room 5
December 13, 2015	Room 5

Upcoming Events

February 14 & 15, 2014 – Southern Ontario Orchid Society Annual Show, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario

February 22, 2015 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Pat Vuurman, Yellow Phalaenopsis. Preparing orchids for shows.

February 28 & March 1, 2015 – OSRBG Annual Show. Setup for show is on Friday, February 27, 2015.

March 29, 2015 – OSRBG General Meeting, The Annex. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Repotting Session

April 11 & 12, 2015 – Toronto Artistic Orchid Society Annual Show Centre for Information and Community Service (CICS), 2330 Midland Road, Scarborough, Ontario

April 19, 2015 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Russ Vernon, New Vision Orchids, Indiana, Odontoglossum

June 5 & 6, 2015 – Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival, Tobermory, Ontario at Parks Canada Visitor Centre. The events schedule and registration online starting May at: www.orchidfest.ca

SOOS Show Results



Photo by Lynda Vuurman

Once again the Spring (???) season has begun with the excellent show put on by the member of SOOS (Southern Ontario Orchid Society) on Valentines weekend. Thanks go to Luke Witherspoon, Gavin Clark, Mirka Barac, Jocelyn Weber, Linda Will, Wendy Hearder-Moan, Cindy and Ben Boers and Lynda and Pat Vuurman as well as the RBG collection for contributing their precious orchid plants especially considering the harsh weather they had to endure. Thank you to the set-up / tear-down crew of Cindy, Lynda, Ben and Pat. (Additional assistants are always welcomed – don't be shy!) Their efforts to produce a fine display of 32 orchids yielded a 3rd place ribbon for displays of over 25 plants. A photograph will be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Further results are as follows:

Luke Witherspoon:

- 1st for red Vanda hybrids: Vanda Karen Armstrong
- 2nd for pink Vanda hybrids: Vanda Princess Mikasa Pink
- 2nd for blue Vanda hybrids: Vanda Sansai Blue
- 3rd for unnamed orchids: Dendrobium – yellow
- 3rd for unnamed orchids: Dendrobium – white

Gavin Clark:

- 2nd for miscellaneous species: Coelogyne cristata

Mirka Barac:

- 1st for lavender / mauve Cattleya hybrids, flowers larger than 10cm: Bc Maikai 'Louise' AM/AOS
- 1st for miscellaneous species plus 3rd for specimen plant: Coelogyne cristata 'Glacier Mint'
- 1st for yellow/orange Cattleya hybrids, flowers larger than 10cm: Potinara Haw Yuon Gold 'Yong Kang #2'
- 3rd for red shaded Cattleya hybrids, flowers less than 10cm: Potinara Blast Furnace

Jocelyn Weber:

- 2nd for Miltonia intergenerics: Burrageara Stefan Isler 'Lava Flow'
- 3rd for Cattleya hybrid – other colours: Cattleya Pradit Spot 'Black Prince'

Linda Will:

- 2nd for pink flowered Phragmipedium hybrids: Phragmipedium Sedenii (longifolium x schlimii)

Wendy Hearder-Moan:

- 2nd for multifloral pink Phalaenopsis: Phalaenopsis Pink Girl '#1'

Cindy, Ben Boers:

- 1st for Dendrobium hybrids of Phalaenopsis type: Dendrobium Chao Praya Smile
- 2nd for Maudiae type Paphiopedilum hybrids: Paphiopedilum Zanzibar
- 2nd for orchids without flowers, grown for unusual foliage: Cymbidium sinense 'Toa Ping Yong'
- 3rd or Maudiae type Paphiopedilum hybrids: Paphiopedilum LEEANUM (insigne x spicerianum)
- 3rd for Cattleya hybrids – other colours: Lc Ha Yuan Angel

Lynda, Pat Vuurman:

- 2nd for Zygotopetalum related hybrids: Bifrenaria Golden Jim (leucorrhoda x vitellina)
- 2nd for Maudiae type Paphiopedilum hybrids: Paphiopedilum Lyro Petite Fleur (barbigerum x primulinum)
- 2nd for Phragmipedium species: Phragmipedium tetzlaffianum

RBG:

- 3rd for Oncidium species with small flowers: Oncidium ampliatum

Apologies for any errors or omissions,
Pat Vuurman

Unknown orchid rescued from Cambodian killing fields

By Lewis Smith



Botanists from Kew Gardens risked their lives in Cambodian jungles littered with unexploded mines to bring back an orchid never before recorded by science.

Researchers had no idea that the orchid, one of 200 plants collected in a former stronghold of the Kymer Rouge, was a new species until it flowered months later in a Kew hothouse. It boasts a pink marble-size flower which was spotted as staff prepared for the annual Alluring Orchids festival which starts tomorrow.

Even now, the region where the flower was collected remains a dangerous place with thousands of mines, booby-traps and other ordinance left over from the Seventies' war. Moreover, drugs gangs and illegal loggers have moved into the area making it especially hazardous.

The 700sq km area where the orchids were collected in the Cardamom Mountains remains so dangerous – and the scientific facilities are so limited – that experts from Kew were given permission to take plants collected from the jungle back to Britain to be identified.

Researcher André Schuiteman said: “The area isn’t very well known to botanists. We had to have a local guide to keep us safe – you daren’t go there alone.

“We had to have armed guards because there are drug gangs operating there. There are also illegal loggers in the region and if you stumble across them they can be aggressive.”

Among the samples taken and kept safe at Kew as experts waited for them to bloom – once in flower, the type of orchid can be identified – were 20 species that had been seen elsewhere but never before in Cambodia and one that was entirely new to science.

It came into flower a few weeks before Christmas and while it comes from the *Porpax* genus it has yet to be named.

About half the 200 plants collected on the expedition, which took place in 2013, have now come into flower.



André Schuiteman, senior researcher at Kew

Mr Schuiteman said that plant-collecting expeditions typically only find about 20 per cent of the species in a region so it is quite possible that there are more discoveries to be made – and even that the remaining specimens still to flower at Kew could include other unknown species.

Courtesy of: The Independent, February 4, 2015



Photo by Drew Goddard

Calypso Salisb.

By: Ingrid Schmidt-Ostrander

“Hi, Calypso, I’ll sing you a story...”

There are several very showy and appealing native orchids in Canada. But to my mind, the most fabulous one is a rather small sized pink orchid: *Calypso bulbosa*. This orchid grows throughout the northern hemisphere – quite far north! It is variable in appearance and may have different botanical forms but scientists have agreed that there is only one *Calypso* orchid.

The name goes back to ancient Greece: the beautiful, wise and charming nymph Calypso lived hidden, in solitude, on a lovely island where Odysseus arrived after being ship-wrecked by Poseidon, God of the Sea. For seven years, the goddess tried to make Odysseus stay, but eventually he left. Jacques Cousteau named his ship “The Calypso” in remembrance of the enchanting, island-dwelling goddess who rescued the lost sailor.



Calypso bulbosa

In Europe, at the time when the *Calypso* orchids bloom (about May), you can go on a special journey to the land of the midnight sun and try to find these elusive flowers; you may take pictures, but no-one is allowed to touch the flowers or to pick them or dig them out. The traveller stands in reverence before the orchids and keeps the memory of his romantic trip into the Northern Forest forever in his heart.

Here in Canada, we are fortunate to be able to see these beauties, sometimes called ‘Fairy Slippers’ in many woodland places. They say that in captivity they do not live long – as many wildlings; they need their special environment. They may be in the gardens for a few years and then the little plant dies. Perhaps we should take a page from the Europeans’ book: let the orchids stay in their little islands of wilderness.

Calypso bulbosa has an underground corm and in late summer, a small round leaf grows from this storage organ. The bright green leaf of not more than 3cm size stays on during the winter, underneath the snow and in spring, the flowers emerge. During the summer’s heat, the whole little plant goes dormant and you won’t find any trace of it. “Calypso” means “The Hidden One”. Very often the plants grow in dry, shady places between shrubs so that even when they bloom, you may not notice the 5cm rosy flowers on their 10cm stems among tall grasses. *Calypso bulbosa* has a pouch-shaped lip with a light or dark yellow, bristly crest; the sepals and petals flare out and come in different shades of rose, even white. Although the lip looks like a small sack, this orchid is not a lady slipper. The *Calypso* orchid exudes a lovely rose-like perfume, probably to attract its pollinators. Or is it to remember the beautiful Greek nymph?

If any of you are fortunate to find one or several of these intriguing woodland sprites, please remember the command of the forest: “Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints!”

Courtesy of: Canadian Orchid Congress



Photo by Drew Goddard

Membership

Just a Reminder: Memberships were due June 1, 2014.

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

Jacqueline Goddard
2037 Coral Crescent
Burlington, ON L7P 3K4
e-mail: krackerjac@hotmail.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

2014 – 2015 Executive & Contacts

President	Wendy Hearder- Moan	905-335-4055
Past President.....	Lynda Vuurman	905-527-4951
Vice-President	Vacant	
Treasurer.....	Gavin Clark	905-274-4888
Secretary	Jacqui Arrindell	905-528-1060
Membership.....	Jacque Goddard	905-635-6342
Newsletter	Drew Goddard	905-635-6342
Publicity.....	Nancy Freckleton	905-628-4198
Native Orchids	Scott Belton	416-22-6091
Show Chair	Ben Boers	905-701-8102
Sales & Raffle.....	Penelope Petrie	905-383-3558
Programming	Lauren Booklin	289-837-1462
COC Rep	Peter Decyk	905-632-1985
AOS/Mid-American Rep	Peter Decyk	905-632-1985
Hospitality	Vacant	
Librarian	Penny Lipsik	519-449-2321
Flasking	Bob Gibbon	905-387-1993
Orchid Collection	Olga Jokutaitis	905-544-9894
Orchid Collection	Pat Vuurman	905-527-4951
RBG Liaison.....	Ben Boers	905-701-8102

Honorary Lifetime Member

Dr. James Brasch

Membership and Address Changes

Jacqueline Goddard
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Orchidata

Deadline for the March / April

Newsletter is March 5, 2015

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

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2037 Coral Crescent
Burlington, ON L7P 3K4 905-635-6342
e-mail: andyjjj@gmail.com
