



Orchid Society of Alberta

NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, Number 9

June 2005

See You at the June Meeting!

- Our next Society meeting is on Sunday, June 19. It will be the last meeting of this membership year!
- Our featured speaker is Doris Jensen, who will be discussing *Bulbophyllums*!

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Orchids Without Guilt

Our September meeting will offer members a chance to indulge their favourite passion without the guilt that usually accompanies a big orchid splurge. That's because the OSA is honoured to present Ivan Portilla as our featured speaker on September 18.

Ivan is one of the Portilla brothers, proprietors of the noted orchid firm Ecuagenera. Based in Cuenca, Ecuador, the firm has state-of-the-art growing and propagation facilities dedicated to research and preservation of Ecuador's rich orchid flora. It is the largest orchid exporter in Ecuador, and one of the largest in the Americas.

Ecuagenera is a remarkable business success story, but that's not why it's been the subject of so much attention in the horticultural press of late. What makes the company truly unique is that its profits are used to fund the New World Institute, a school dedicated to raising the standard of education available to Ecuadorean children.



Phragmipedium besseae, a species native to Ecuador and one of about 2000 plants available from Ivan Portilla, September's speaker from the firm Ecuagenera. This one is *Phrag. Besseae* "Northern Fire", grown and photographed by Chuck Taylor.

The Institute houses some 630 students from preschool to grade 12. A full curriculum is offered, with training in subjects as diverse as computer science and music. The students also get hands-on training in horticulture, botany, biology and agriculture, thanks to Ecuagenera's

greenhouses, cloning lab and jungle reserves.

Places at the school are awarded based on ability, with scholarships for children from impoverished families. With their remarkable philanthropy, the Portillas embody the Ecuagenera motto: "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

So if you want some truly unique plants from a truly unique grower, make sure you participate in our Ecuagenera pre-order. You'll find ordering details on page 2 of this newsletter. And you can buy as many as you want, knowing it's all for a good cause.

—Lynne Copeland

Coming Attractions

Our June speaker will be Doris Jensen, from Brampton, Ontario. Doris will be talking about *Bulbophyllum*, that weird and wonderful genus. I will ask Doris to bring extra plants for people who didn't take advantage of the pre-order.

In July and August we'll have a well-deserved summer break to enjoy holidays, camping, golfing, etc.

September's speaker will be Ivan Portilla of Ecuagenera. See below for details of the pre-order.

We have no speaker for October as yet. Jan at Foothills Orchid Society in Calgary is sourcing one out; details should be available in the next newsletter in September.

During the summer, I will be calling for speakers for next years meetings. If anyone has ideas about who they would like to hear, please pass them on!

— Paul Klaassen

The Epic Ecuagenera Pre-Order

If it grows in Ecuador, you'll find it at Ecuagenera.

The plant list from our September speaker, Ivan Portilla, runs to some 2000 species, a selection we won't see equalled any time soon. The list, with prices in Canadian dollars, is available on the OSA website, www.orchidsalberta.com, under "News". More information is available on the Ecuagenera website, www.ecuagenera.com, including a photo catalogue and — believe it or not — additional plant lists to order from. Prices on this website are in \$US.

Please note that **PRE-ORDERS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE ECUAGENERA WEBSITE**, on the forms provided on the site, and following the instructions in the left hand column of the site. These are strict instructions and plants cannot be shipped unless they are followed correctly!

The deadline for this order is the last day of June. Payment instructions are provided on the Ecuagenera website. The ordering procedure will be reviewed at the June meeting.

New Canadian Orchid Forum Launched

Want to vent about that *Miltonia* that won't bloom? Need advice on the rot that's turning your *Masdevallias* orange? Or just feel like talking orchids at 2 AM?

Well, now you can do all those things, thanks to www.OrchidBoard.com, a new orchid discussion board aimed specifically at Canadian growers. Established by Marty Krol of Ontario, the Orchidboard is open to anyone who wants to post a question or start an orchid-related discussion. It's free of charge and non-commercial.

"I am hoping to create a hustling and bustling orchid

community, where orchid information and experiences will be exchanged freely," says Krol. His Internet creation features threaded discussions, classified ads, an events calendar and a picture gallery, among other features.

"I created OrchidBoard.com with only one thing in mind," says Krol, "to learn more about orchids and to create a virtual venue where orchid enthusiasts can share information and show off their prized possessions - and of course vent out a little about their great hobby!" Check it out at www.OrchidBoard.com.



The OSA Interview: Sandy Bedford

This month we meet Sandy Bedford, past president of the OSA and an active participant in the Society for many years. Sandy operates Northern Lights Orchids from her home in Strathcona County.

Where are you from originally, and where do you live now? I am an Edmonton girl born and bred. My husband, Jim, and I have lived on acreage in rural Strathcona County for about 14 years now.

Occupation? My background is in financial institutions. I was a manager before going on disability leave.

How many years have you been growing orchids? I had been interested in orchids, and researching them for a while, before actually being able to buy any. There were no orchids available as pot plants in chain stores, and no one selling commercially. I joined the society and bought my first orchid from Martin Nussbaumer in May 1984 at the OSA's show at West Edmonton Mall.

How long have you been an OSA member? I have served on the Executive in a few positions for most of the last 21 years, with two years spent as President. There were also many years spent on the show committee as Judging Chair and a stint as both Show Chair and Judging Chair.

Why do you like growing orchids? Besides the beauty and charm of the flowers, it must be the complexity and challenge that appeals to me, as well the fact that you can never really know everything. There is always more. I like that.

How many orchids do you own, and what is your growing set-up? There has been no recent census, but it is most likely about 800, give or take. I am fortunate to have a wonderful 500 sq. ft. greenhouse attached to my home, and am able to grow a variety of intermediate to warm varieties fairly well. There is pretty good light with the front windows facing south and with the roof ridge running north/south. I have an under bench misting system, and a fogger on humidistats, and an exhaust fan. The



greenhouse has its own furnace which is a high efficiency model. I don't have supplemental lighting.

What genera do you grow? Do you have a "specialty"? I grow a variety of genera, mostly of the intermediate to warm sections, with little success in the cooler growers. I can't say that I have a specialty, but I seem to be doing alright with Phals, Oncidium alliance, Paphs, Phrags and some of the weirder stuff.

What is your favourite orchid and why?

Hum ... I don't really have a single favorite. There are several plants in every genus that are my favorite at any given time, and that changes sometimes with advances in breeding. There are some flowers that I have loved from the beginning though, and one of those is the species *Laelia purpurata*. It is a handsome majestic flower, and it is easy to see why there are societies and whole shows for its hundreds of varieties in its native Brazil, where it is the national flower. I suppose as far as genera go that Paphs would be my favorite.

What is your least favourite orchid and why?

There are a few that are neither weird enough nor attractive enough for me, and I could definitely live without them. Even if an orchid is not something I would grow, I can appreciate a well grown specimen and can judge it to be superior to something that I like more. You can't have personal biases in judging.

What is your greatest orchid-growing triumph to date? I always feel triumphant when something blooms that I have grown for years, and of course, I am always happy to have the recognition of an award or a trophy. I think it was more important to me personally to have organized jointly with the other three Alberta societies the display at the World Orchid Congress in Vancouver in 1999. At

(Continued on page 6)

May Meeting Report

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING — MAY 29, 2005



Laelia milleri, grown by Paramount Orchids and photographed by Carl Austin.



Symphoglossum sanguineum, grown by Paramount Orchids and photographed by Carl Austin.

- Minutes adopted – Tom DeBoer, Lynne Copeland.
- Any new members who have not received their free raffle ticket, see Rosemary at the raffle table.
- Potting media handouts from the April culture session will be available at the next meeting.
- Thank you to Mike Gabrielson for presentation of our culture session today.
- Volunteers are still needed for the 2006 Orchid Show – specifically, we need a facilities liaison and people to help with advertising.
- There are new books in the library – Proceedings of the 16th WOC, AOS Speakers Directory, as well as CDs of talks by Francisco Miranda. A copy of the photos from our show “Celebrate with Orchids”, which will be presented today, will also be available on disc in the library.
- OSPF – Doug Bovee distributed questionnaires regarding future plans for the Foundation.
- There is a card at the front for Dr. Amy Fong, who is unwell, for anyone who wishes to send her a greeting.
- Would the person who made the Rhubarb Cake please allow the recipe to be printed in the Newsletter – many have asked for the recipe!
- There will be a new feature in the Newsletter called “Swap & Sell”. Members can post short, orchid-related classified ads here free of charge. Deadline for the June issue is June 4; send ads to Lynne Copeland.
- Anyone wishing to try out the e-mail newsletter please contact Lynne Copeland at OSAnews@airenet.com.
- June Meeting speaker is Doris Jensen on bulbophyllums — pre-orders must be in today!
- The pre-order for the September meeting is from Ecuagenera. Part of the money from sale of plants goes to fund a school for Ecuadorian children.
- Thailand Trip – Spots still available – See Carl Austin.
- Meeting adjourned – Lisa O’Neal, Tony Yee.

— Marysia Auschrat, Secretary

NEEDED: A LITTLE MUSCLE AT THE END OF MEETINGS!

We have received a request from the Central Lions Seniors Association regarding how the chairs should be put away after our Society meetings:

"Please ensure that chairs are returned as follows after your group is finished: 50 per side of gym in singles (east and west walls only). Extras that were brought in returned to the same place. When returning the ones from outside the gym, please exercise caution when placing them back against the glass windows."

We also need help with clean up after the meeting -- apart from putting the chairs and tables away, the floor must be swept and the room checked for items left behind. Any help from the general membership is welcome!

— Marysia Auschrat

RAFFLE REPORT

Although there were not as many members at the May meeting, there was a huge number of donations -- 58 in total. Also notable was the ingenuity of several donors who brought wonderful gifts for our raffle ticket buyers.

Amongst the items donated were four gorgeous cypripedium pots, two huge outdoor hanging baskets, several lily-of-the-valley divisions and two Siberian irises -- perfect additions for our gardens! There were also a large variety of orchid divisions, cacti and many house plants, including African violets, a rubber tree, a datura and a lipstick plant, plus a beautiful piece of local pottery and some plant photographs.

The June meeting will be quickly upon us, so let's make the last raffle table the best of the year!

My heartfelt thanks to anonymous, Carl Austin, Tom deBoer, Lisa O'Neal, Duncan McClean, Terry Letendre, Fran James, Don Hawker, Chuck Taylor, Larry Clark, Petra Readner, Herta Guse, Monica Dewit, Malcolm Stalkmayer, Lynne Copeland, Wilf Maul, Fei Wong, Akiko Kohana and Heather Goldberg. My apologies for leaving a couple of people out because I could not read all the names correctly.

— Rosemary Nielsen

THANKS FOR THE MAY TREATS!

We were treated to another array of delicious goodies in May. Perhaps we need to start an OSA recipe book! Our thanks to the following generous donors: Lisa O'Neal, Ernestine Tocheniuk, Theresa Mantey, Kay Pappé, Sue Miatello, K. Yee, Gisela Baumann, Terry Letendre, Rosemary Nielsen, Verna Johnson and Judith Jones. A few more desserts for June's meeting would be appreciated!

— Jadzia Auschrat

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

All library material – books, videos and CDs – is to be returned by the end of June. Please make every effort to bring back borrowed material to the June 19 meeting. If anyone is unable to return material at that time, please contact me at 476-2201 so that we can make suitable arrangements to get it back to its home.

— Mary Wilke

MAY SHOW TABLE AWARDS

Best in Show	Phrag. ecuadorensis	Ian Johnston
Best Cattleya	Cattleya mossiae	Don Hawker
Best Phal	Phal. I-Hsin Salmon	Judith Jones
Best Paph	Paph. Magic Lantern	Chuck Taylor
Best Phrag	Phrag. ecuadorensis	Ian Johnston
Best Onc/Odont	Brassia Rex 'Sakata'	Russ Soukoreff
	Miltoniopsis ?	Paul Paludet
Best Dendrobium	Den. aggregatum	Russ Soukoreff
Best Vandaceous	Vanda Fuchs Joy	The Auschrats
Best Masdevallia	Masdevallia Firebird	Verna Johnston
Best Miniature	Mexipedium xerophyticum	Chuck Taylor
Best Culture	Phrag. ecuadorensis	Ian Johnston
Best Species	Barkeria spectabilis	Terry Letendre
Best Other	Aerangis florulentum	Terry Letendre



Best Dendrobium: *Den. aggregatum*, grown by Russ Soukoreff and photographed by Lynne Copeland.

Orchid Word Search by Laurie Lywak

T	H	E	R	M	O	M	E	T	E	R	Y
N	K	N	A	T	R	E	T	A	W	A	S
E	R	A	C	K	K	O	O	H	R	E	H
C	M	R	E	Z	E	E	W	T	T	S	A
S	I	R	E	M	I	T	Y	W	E	U	D
E	S	T	A	W	E	T	H	S	K	O	E
R	T	H	I	K	I	T	R	A	C	H	C
O	E	E	S	D	V	E	N	T	U	N	L
U	R	A	I	R	E	W	O	L	B	E	O
L	B	M	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	E	T
F	U	S	R	E	Y	A	R	P	S	R	H
H	U	M	I	D	I	S	T	A	T	G	S

ORCHID ESSENTIALS

Circle the words from the list below in the puzzle at left. Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be spelled backwards. The remaining letters can be rearranged to answer the following clue: "Shading compound" (Answer on p. 8)

Basket	Humidity tray	Tweezer
Blower	Journal	Vent
Bucket	Mister	Watertank
Cart	Rack	
Fluorescent	Shadecloths	
Greenhouse	Sprayers	
Hook	Thermometer	
Humidistat	Timer	

WANTED: Your Photos for "Focus On Orchids"

The theme for our 2006 annual show is "Focus on Orchids". Appropriately enough, the show will once again feature a photo competition.

Now is the time to take your flowering plants outside, put them in the shade, and arrange a backdrop. Step back, have a glass of lemonade and study all the angles. Then snap some pictures. Just remember, the slower the film, the greater the depth of field, which you need to get the whole flower in sharp focus. So play around with it and bring us some great shots for next year. Happy snapping!

— Tom de Boer

RIGHT: Phal. Jackie Debonis, grown and photographed by David Whitaker.



OSA Interview: Sandy Bedford ...

(Continued from page 3)

such an important international event it was both nerve wracking and thrilling to present a display, and it was amazing to win our class.

What is your greatest orchid-growing disaster to date? Let's just say that it is a big mistake to pot all of your plants in a medium you have not tested on a few first.

What is the best orchid-growing advice you've ever received? I think that the best advice I have ever received was to buy and grow what

you like. It seems ridiculously simple, but too often we get caught up by what others tell us is the plant for us. If you don't really like something it doesn't matter who else thinks it's great.

Any advice to pass on to others? For beginners, I would advise them to decide on a genera whose needs they can easily meet, and then buy the most mature healthy plant you can that is ideally flowering or in bud. As to the rest of us; grow what makes you smile, that will make you happiest in the end.

Thanks Sandy!



THE SWAP AND SELL PAGE

Welcome to the member Swap and Sell page, a new feature for our newsletter. Ads on this page are free for Society members with orchid-related items or services for sale or trade. If you'd like to place an ad in our next issue (September), please e-mail it to OSAnews@airenet.com or telephone Lynne Copeland at (403) 227-6515.

I now have available an all-natural bio-stimulant for your orchids. My "Meta-booster" is super-concentrated; dilute 5ml to 4L of water (apply to roots after watering, once per month). 500 ml bottle for \$35 with **15% going back to the Society**. Each bottle makes 100 applications of 5ml/4 litres = 35 cents per application! Benefits include increased nutrient uptake, bigger and brighter flowers, increased root growth and better stress resistance.

If you are interested in trying Meta-Booster, call Monica De Wit, 780-470-0910 or e-mail mdewit@interbaun.com

FOR SALE: A modern, elegant 3-tier flower rack, 78" H, 16.5" D, 99.5" W. Comes with fluorescent lights, also some orchids for sale.

Please call Theresa, evenings at 780-463-4695.

Due to health reasons, we are selling most of our orchids: Masdevallias, Phrags, etc. Come to the greenhouse for great selection and quality.

Ian and Verna Johnston, 780-484-6302.

FOR SALE: Four orchids: Phrag. Eric Young, \$45;

Brsdm. Flyaway "Miami" (Silver Medal WOC), \$30; Den. Parishii, 2 plants, \$20 each. All are good-sized plants.

Call Fran James at 780-462-0335.

If anyone gets the urge to buy plants this summer, please feel free to call for an appointment to see what divisions I have for sale. **Note:** As I sell at the Foothills Orchid Show, I will not be bringing plants to our September meeting. So if you want to save some plants from a life in Calgary, call me this summer for first dibs on the plants I will take there.

Terry Letendre, 780-486-4474 or e-mail tletendre@shaw.ca

Culture 'n Plants, Inc. — The Place for All Your Orchid Flasking Needs

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Owned and operated by Mary De Pauw, MSc, with over 20 years of tissue culture experience.

To inquire about our services or for more details call Mary at 780-454-8019 or e-mail culturenplants@shaw.ca

Another Honour for Vivian Thierfelder!

One of Vivian Thierfelder's paintings will grace the June 2005 issue cover of *American Artist* magazine. Vivian is well known to members of the OSA as the painter of the outstanding images for our last 25 show posters. Her remarkable painting for our 2005 show, "Celebrate with Orchids", is shown at right.

The *American Artist* cover is the latest in a series of honors that includes a week spent painting and discussing art with Prince Charles, himself an avid watercolorist. Vivian has also recently been named the Canadian watercolor artist of the year by a vote of her peers.

American Artist hits the newsstands on June 22 and can be found at art stores, Chapters locations and several other venues.

— Carl Austin



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The Canadian Orchid
Congress Newsletter is
available to all our
members, on the COC
website:

Www.canadianorchid
congress.ca

*Solution to Orchid
Word Search:
"Whitewash"*

June Meeting Information

Date

Sunday, June 19, 2005

Location

Main Hall, Lions Senior Citizens Centre
11113-113 Street, Edmonton

Meeting Program

1 PM to 4 PM

Plant and Raffle Ticket Sales

1 PM to 2 PM

Display Tables

1 PM to 1:30 PM

Coffee and Snacks

Served 1 PM to 2 PM

Culture Session

None

Speaker

Doris Jensen, Brampton, Ontario
"Bulbophyllums"

Orchid Society of Alberta - Executive 2005

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Publishing Information

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Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month preceding publication.

Mailing Address: Orchid Society of Alberta, PO Box 33169, 15557 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4V8.

To arrange for submission of articles, contact the editor, Lynne Copeland, by telephone at (403) 227-6515; by mail at Box 17, Site 8, RR #3, Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1T8; by e-mail at OSAnews@airenet.com.

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Full page - \$50 Half page - \$30 Quarter page - \$20
Less than 1/4 page - \$5 per column inch