

# Orchiflora

**Volume 11, Issue 1**  
**January 2021**



**Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2021. Let us hope this year will bring better times so we can safely gather once again!**

**\*Monthly General Meetings** – held the 4th Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December)

**\*We will continue to hold virtual Meetings & Culture Classes for the foreseeable future.**

***You need to instal Cisco Webex on your computer, tablet or mobile phone to participate in our virtual meetings and culture classes.***

**\*Join a meeting/class in one of the following ways:**

Click on this link: <https://vancouverorchidsociety.my.webex.com/meet/vosexecutive>

Or, open the Cisco Webex program and enter this meeting number 142 001 4949 in the Enter meeting information field, under Join a Meeting.

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**Culture Class – Tuesday, January 12 – at 6:30 pm**

**Margaret Prat will present a class on common orchid viruses and testing**

**Monthly Meeting Wednesday, January 27 at 6:00pm**

President’s welcome & general information/announcements

Speaker - Fred Clarke (Sunset Valley Orchids) - “Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower”

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**Next scheduled virtual monthly meeting – Wednesday, February 24, 2021**  
**Speaker: Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids – topic to be announced**

**\*\*AOS Judging - The Western Canada Judging Center (WCJC) meetings  
continue to be cancelled until further notice\*\***

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## *President's Message*

May this year bring all orchid lovers health, joy, love of family, peace, and a wealth of happy orchids.

We are going to be having a virtual culture class on January 12th. The class will be on common orchid viruses and testing thanks to Margaret Pratt. Some members may remember this presentation; however, a refresher class is always helpful. The class format is the same as our usual culture classes. Our virtual meeting starts at 6pm to resolve any connection issues and uses Cisco Webex. All are welcome to join in. Members are encouraged to show off their successes and let us all know how you grow your orchids. Please do not be shy and share your orchids and knowledge with us. We encourage questions about any culture problems. Andrew will control the order in which members speak.

For our monthly virtual meeting on January 27th our speaker is Fred Clarke. His topic is "Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower". I am sure this is something we all aspire to. The February meeting features Alan Koch, another excellent speaker. Stay tuned for his future topic.

For those who are starving for adding to their collection, we are working on having a March sale with our own members who have plants to sell. Things will be a little different, but planning is in the works. Those members who would like to sell some of their plants please contact me at [ewnash@live.ca](mailto:ewnash@live.ca) More information will follow, when the planning is completed.

I wish to thank all of you for joining our meetings, with a special thanks to Andrew for making our connections with each other possible.

Thank you and stay safe,  
Evelyn Nash

## Vancouver Orchid Society – Treasurer’s report – November/December 2020 Maureen Burke

Balance Forward (October 31)	\$8779.85
Balance forward (December 31)	\$8912.14
Receipts	
Christmas Auction (27 items/10 buyers)	\$1132.55
Donations (Ten Shin)	\$ 540.00
Memberships (1)	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
Total receipts	\$1702.55
Expenses	
<u>Operating:</u>	
Rent (VanDusen re Jan/Feb 2020)	\$ 728.70
Office (post box x 1year)	\$ 181.28
Storage Mart (x2 mo)	\$ 260.38
Cisco Webex (x 1 yr)	\$ 245.90
<u>Affiliations:</u>	
Canadian Orchid Society	<u>\$ 154.00</u>
Total expenses	\$1570.26
Net	\$ 132.29

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**Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you to all who donated plants and other items for our virtual auction, and to those who participated. As is past years bidding was fast and furious!

Thank you to Evelyn for coordinating and working with Andrew and Maureen to arrange for online payment, Ingrid, and Conor for keeping track of bidders and prices, Maureen for collecting the funds and Andrew for leading the auction.

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## **The World's Ugliest Orchid**



**Special thanks to Melanie Gallacher for sharing this information.**

Gastrodia agnicellus: the world's ugliest orchid.

This tiny orchid, *Gastrodia agnicellus*, with oh-so-ugly flowers, was found growing on the forest floor in Madagascar. A curious terrestrial orchid, it is saprophytic, living off fungus from which it obtains all its nutrition. It has no leaves or any other photosynthetic tissue. The flowers are small (11 mm, that is, less than ½ inch in diameter) and a very boring brown. It apparently doesn't need brightly colored flowers to attract pollinating insects, as it is believed to largely self-pollinate. After pollination, the stalks grow taller, holding the fruits well above the forest floor to ensure better distribution of the dust-like seeds.

It is one of 156 new to science plant species for 2020 named at the historic Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. ( <https://www.kew.org/about-us/press-media/ugliest-orchid-top-species-2020> )



## Underpotting for Success by Sasha Kubicek

Roots everywhere? Multiple growths in the air with no medium? Not a problem! In fact, some of the best blooming can occur like this! Many orchids are epiphytic which means in nature their roots grow on tree branches with their roots directly exposed to air and light.

I have learned from this and modified my potting technique to maximize air exposure to the plant's roots by under potting epiphytic orchids. Cattleya type orchids are the easiest to adapt to this technique.

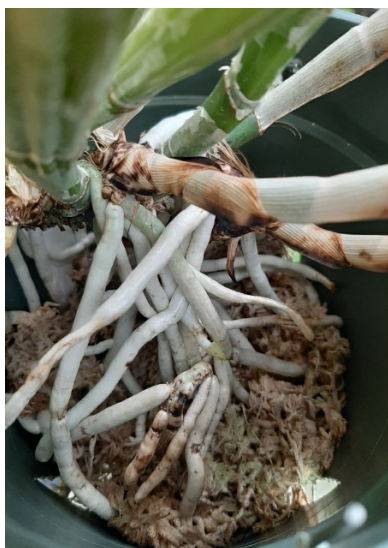
Wait for new roots to emerge and when repotting, instead of filling medium all the way up to the base of the pseudobulb, fill up medium only halfway! This allows you to monitor the roots for pests and visually see when roots are actively growing.

Don't worry, the roots will find their way down into the moisture in the medium. You have now just doubled your chances of success with a full half of your plant's roots exposed to good air circulation and light. Overwatering or pests damage is limited to just the portion you cannot see.



Even with only half the medium, I find I get much better root growth. The ability to see so much of the root area is invaluable.

Once perfected, you can try this on all kinds of epiphytic orchids. I use this technique on Cattleya, Laelia, Dendrobium, Angraecum, Brassia and even Odontoglossum and Oncidium.



A few photos to illustrate the results of this technique.

**Thank you, Sasha, for contributing this very interesting and useful article.**

# VOS Member Photos – Thank you for contributing to our virtual show table!

**Melanie Gallacher**



**Blc. Greenwich Elmhurst**

**Marilyn Lew**



**C Maxima tall 'Sauvécia'**



**Pot. Hwa Yuan Gold 0-2 FCCRHS**



**A mélange of orchids in Marilyn's greenhouse**

**Merilyn Lew**



**Lc. G Roebling 'Blue Indigo'**

**Gabrielle Carson**



**Angr. germinyanum**



**C. Miss World Ecuador**

**Gabrielle Carson**



**Masd. amplexa**



**Den. Sherry Abe**

Carla and Bill Bischoff



**Den. lanesii x glomeratum**

Carla and Bill Bischoff



**Paph. gatrixianum**



**Sophronitid violacea**

Terry Lee



**Oncidium Twinkle 'CT-White Strong'**. From Forestview two years ago at the show. It is semi-hydro but tending toward the dry side (not always with nutrient solution) and on a shelf which averages 25 degrees during the day and about 17 at night. The RH is about 55-60%. It gets half strength fertilizer: MSU with Cal Mag.



Neil Yates



Mormodes grex

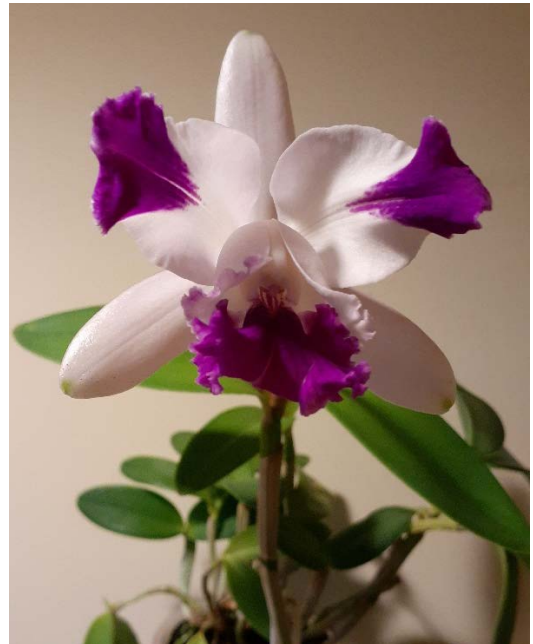
Neil Yates



Paph sukhakulii forma alba



Clowesetum 'White Magic' – 1<sup>st</sup> bloom

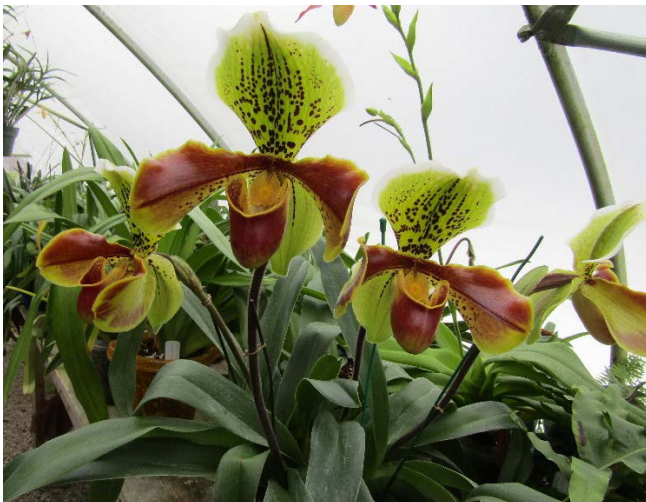


C. intermedia orlata aquinii

**Jim Poole**



**Paph. armeniacum**



**Paph Winston Churchill x Groeburn**

**Ainslie Blanchett**



**Onc Heaven Scent 'Sweet Baby' – chocolate scent**



**Paph Quiberon Baby x Maginot Hill x gatrixianum**

**\*\*both plants are grown in Orchiata bark in a NW window supplemented with a grow light. Fertilized weekly with 7-11-27 and Epsom Salts as a source of Cal/Mag.**

Daniel Kwok



Dinema polybulbon

Daniel Kwok



Sederia japonica



Bc. maikai

**Yolanda Breck**



**Coel. Rochussenii**

**Yolanda Breck**



**Colminara 'Wild Cat'**



**Rhyncattleanthe Fu Shu Glory**



**Restrepia brachypus big**

Sasha Kubicek



Laelia albida



Oncidium zappii



Paph. insigne

Eugene Banziger



Rlc. Liou Hope (Rlc. Li Cheng Mary x Rlc. Mount Hood)



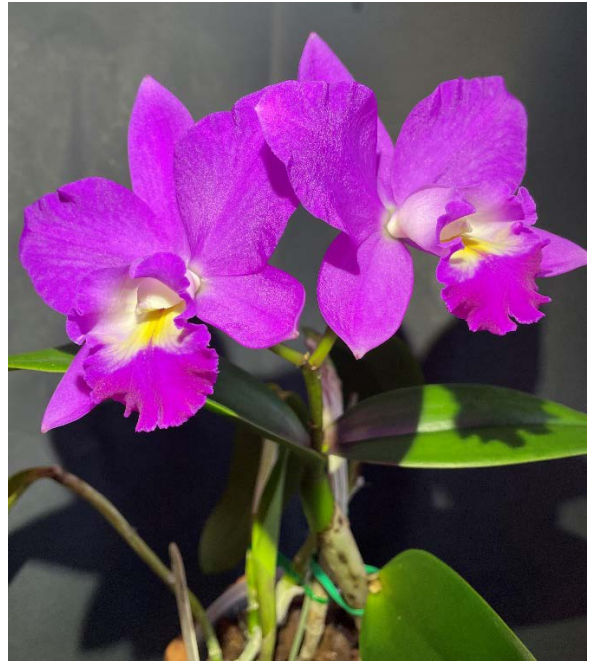
Blc. Pastoral Inocence

**Eugene Banziger**



**Coel. Unchained Melody**

**Wayne Riggs**



**Lc. Secret Love**



**Paph. John Dorvan x Winston Churchill**



**Ctt. Japanese Beauty 'Sakura' (Ctt. Fairyland x C. Misaki Bells)**

**Wayne Riggs**



**C. (Sophronitis) coccinea round form**

**Jennifer Pell**



**Paphiopedilum Huddle Maybrook HCCAOS**



**Holcostylis Pink Yawi (Holc. Pink Jenny x Rhy. gigantea)**



**Brassolaeliocattleya Chia Lin 'New City'**

**Jennifer Pell**



**Paphiopedilum Quiberon Bay x Maginot Hill x grantrixianum**

**Elizabeth Markus**



**Lepanthes telipogoniflora**

**Elizabeth Markus**



**Eplc. Don Hermann (Eplc. Gold Digger x Epi. stamfordianum)**



**Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King' (Den. Lovely Virgin Angel x Den. Cassiope 'Seto')**



**Dgmra. Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy' (Mltssa Cartagena x Odm. Gledhow)**



**Don Bednarczyk**

**Don Bednarczyk**



**C. Sapphirata**



**Rls. Golden Chieftain 'Akuki' FCC/AOS**



**Rlc. Blanche Aisaka 'Yuki' AM/AOS**



**Rlc. Greenwich 'Elmhurst' AM/AOS**

Keith Willett



**Ludisia discolor – Jewel Orchid**

A raffle prize at VOS meeting in 2012. Opened about 2 weeks ago dangling in my kitchen shelf unit, up to 3 ceiling lights on at a time. In a 4" plastic orchid pot with small bark and perlite, watering with light 202020 fertilizer about 1/week and water spray when I think 3-5 times/week, flowers are about 1cm in diameter.

Collis Wilson & Maureen Burke



**Coel. Speciosa**

Growing conditions similar to Unchained Melody

Keith Willett



**Militonia spectabilis var. moreliana**

From Ecuagenera. Grown in med Orchidata bark with a little moss in my main bathroom, under the skylight, water about once a week with lightly fertilized water, and spray water on the leaves everyday especially during the hot days!

Collis Wilson & Maureen Burke



**Coel. Unchained Melody 'mossiae'**

Grown in small bark, perlite, and charcoal. Outside May to October in dappled sun and kept wet. Inside in south facing greenhouse slightly shaded for rest of year. MSU and cal- mag

Valerie Melanson



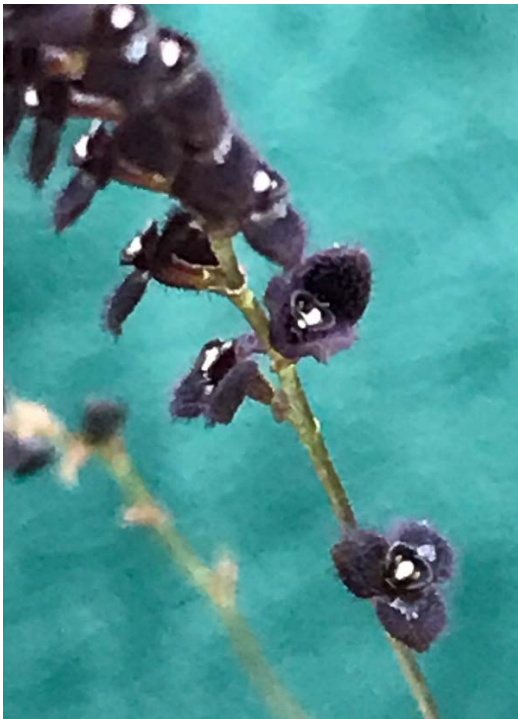
**Dryadela cristata**

Valerie Melanson



**Platystele stenostachya**

The two plants to the left, and the one above are grown in Exoterra Reptile habitats with LED light.



**Stelis microchila**



**Calanthe cardioglossa**

Growing in living room with LED light.

**Melanie Gallacher**



**Den. mini snowflake**



**Paph. Fanaticum (malipoense x micranthum)**

**Margaret Prat**



**Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Capades'**



**Pot. Golden Circle 'OPRL' x Sc. Beaufort 'Elmwood 4N'**

**Silvia Fabry**



**Blc. Village Chief North**

**Silvia Fabry**



**Phrag. Fritz Schomberg**



**Epicat. Rene Marques**



**C. Green Emerald**

## Wayne's Corner - a comment about some of my phragmipediums.



Over the last year or so, I noticed that a good number of the phragmipediums I have been growing in Leica pellets under semi-hydroponic conditions were not doing well. Leaf tips were commonly going brown, some leaves looked chlorotic, and the plant was not growing/flowering well. Time to repot as some plants were in their original pellets for about three years! When removed from the pot many of the roots were dead/rotting; a couple of plants had only 2 or 3 viable roots. In contrast, the plant shown on the left (Phrag. Eva [Phrag. sedenii x schlimii x longifolium]- from Margaret Prat in 2017) had been growing and flowering extremely well in potted in fine bark with semi-hydro conditions. The photo to the left illustrates lots of healthy, happy roots. (Note; this is the parent plant of Eva that was divided and two divisions sold in the auction – bidding was fierce!!!). Based on this observation I decided to move plants that were really

unhappy to a bark mix. The mix I am now using is a modification of that recommended by Glen Decker formerly of Piping Rock Orchids (Click on this link to read Glen's article on growing phrags and the mix he was using. <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/assets/Glenn-Decker-Nov-2009-Article-Orchid-Digest-PK-Hybrids.pdf> )

### Wayne's Phrag. bark mix:

3 parts medium Orchid bark (Power)

1.5 parts large Orchid bark (Power +)

1 part charcoal

2 parts coarse perlite

¼ part Leica pellets or lava rock

A good sprinkle of oyster shells

\*\*I know this is not very precise, but it is like cooking a little bit of this and a little of that!

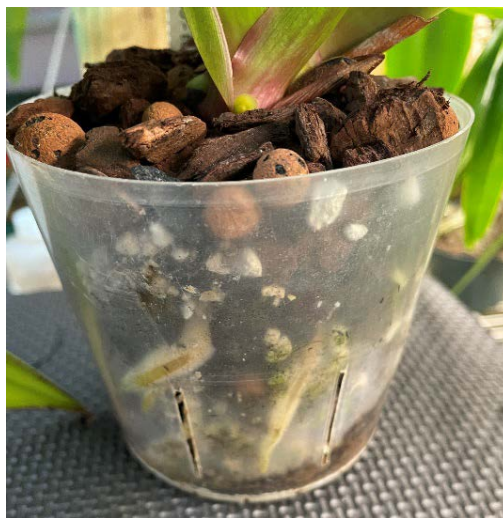
**My goal is to obtain a mix that retains moisture, but also provides spaces for air to get to the roots.**

A couple of sad looking plants were repotted in this mix in semi-hydro conditions in March 2020. Within a month the change in leaf color and growth was impressive. Based on this observation I decided to switch more plants to this bark mix using either a regular clear plastic pot with drain holes at the bottom, or a clear pot with holes drilled 1 inch up from the bottom for semi-hydroponic growing. While it is only a few months the results have been very encouraging with lots of new root growth and more leads. Plants that were struggling have really perked up, leaf color has deepened, and they are growing well with new leads and a few coming into spike. Using clear pots as Eugene mentioned in his culture class permits one to see how healthy the roots are. It also allows me to see how much moisture remains in the mix I am now using. If the media still looks very wet I do not water. I am pleased with the results and will continue to assess the remaining phrags I have growing in Leica – if they are happy then I will continue to use that media for them otherwise they will be moved into the bark mix. While this seems to be working well for me, I am not advising you should rush to repot all of your phrags with this type of mix. As always keeping doing what is working well for you. If,

however, you notice your plants are unhappy then a change in mix may be something to consider. *The early results of root growth for a couple of plants in regular 5" pots are shown in the photos below.*



Potted in late August 2020



Potted at the end of October 2020

## January / February plant checklist

Adapted from the AOS website



- **Cattleya** – For those of you with these plants in your collection many will be coming into spike or are in bloom. Keep an eye on the sheath – if you notice that it seems to be drying as illustrated in the photo, carefully cut, and peel the sheath open. This will often save the developing buds and allow them to grow and open. If the dying the sheath is not removed rot may set in and the buds will be lost. Stake developing spikes as needed to keep flowers upright. Typically, the amount of water and fertilizer is now reduced. Unless the plant is really unhappy it is probably best to wait until new roots begin to emerge in spring to repot.

- **Cymbidiums** – Most will be flowering now. Stake flower spikes, for non-pendant types, to best display the flowers.
- **Lycaste** – Many of these will be getting ready to flower. Watch that the palm like leaves do not interfere with developing spikes. Some individuals tie the leaves loosely to prevent this. Others cut off the leaves, but this detracts from the attractiveness of the plant. Resist turning the pot when looking at the developing flowers as this will make them re-orientate to face the light source and often result in a poor display. Plants should be kept a bit dryer now that the days are shorter.
- **Odontoglossums** – Many of these as well as their intergeneric hybrids (e.g., brassia and oncidium crosses) provide a great display of color at this time. Most grow well at intermediate

conditions. Spikes emerge from the inner sheath of well developed pseudobulbs. If the pseudobulbs are shriveled this may be the result of insufficient moisture or alternatively too much resulting in root loss.

- **Paphiopedilums** – Standard ‘bull-dog’ type of paphiopedilums (insigne-derived hybrids) usually are in peak flowering around this time. Unlike most other types of orchids, paphs can be repotted anytime – even when in flower – and enjoy being cleaned up and in new media. Be careful, however, not to overwater while new roots begin to grow.
- **Phalaenopsis** – Most will be developing spikes or be in flower now. Stage inflorescences for best display. Wait until finished flowering to re-pot.

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<p><b>Executive and Board of Directors</b></p> <p>President – Evelyn Nash          1st Vice President – Barbara Cable          2nd Vice President – Ingrid Pike          Treasurer – Maureen Burke and Erik Nilsen (Co-Treasurers)          Secretary – Conor Preston          Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eugene Banziger</li> <li>- Gabrielle Carson</li> <li>- Giulia Comin</li> <li>- Grant Rampton</li> <li>- Keith Willet</li> <li>- Andrew Wong</li> </ul>	<p><b>NOTE: Contributions of photos or articles to the newsletter are welcome.</b> If you wish to write a short culture note or pass along some ‘secret’ growing tips that you find makes your orchids thrive and bloom well, please email to me so I can include in a future newsletter.</p> <p>Send to Wayne Riggs:  <a href="mailto:wayne.riggs66@gmail.com">wayne.riggs66@gmail.com</a></p> <p><u>The submission deadline is the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month.</u> Items received after this date will appear in the next newsletter.</p>
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**Social Media:**

**Instagram** - VOS member Conor Preston has established an Instagram account to generate public interest in growing orchids. Please visit:

<https://www.instagram.com/vancouverorchidsociety/>

If you would like to post photos of your flowering orchids, please get in touch with Conor at: [conorpreston88@gmail.com](mailto:conorpreston88@gmail.com)

**WhatsApp – VOS chatroom** - Daniel Kwok has established Chatrooms for VOS members to post photos of their orchids, ask questions about plant health or growing tips. It is a great forum to learn from others and to share your plant photos and growing conditions.



We would like to encourage new VOS members, and current members who have not joined the VOS chatroom, to get in touch with Daniel at: [dkwok3580@gmail.com](mailto:dkwok3580@gmail.com) (Tel: 604 805-3866) to be added.

*Facebook*-You can also follow us on

Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/VancouverOrchidSociety/>

***Facebook/Instagram - Photos of your orchids needed***

Photos of your flowering orchids (and very basic information on growing conditions) are needed for the VOS **Facebook Page and Instagram**. This is a great way to promote our love of orchids to other growers and the public. Send your photos to Jennifer Pell/Conor Preston at: [VOS\\_secretary@outlook.com](mailto:VOS_secretary@outlook.com)