

**COC 23st Annual General Meeting
Cambridge, Ontario
September 27, 2010**

Present:

Name	Society	Position
Jean Hollebhone	Ottawa Orchid Society.	COC Representative and President
Jerry Bolce	Central Ontario Orchid Society	COC Editor and Webmaster
Terry Kennedy	Southern Ontario Orchid Society	COC Representative
Peter Poot	Southern Ontario Orchid Society.	COC Representative
Marion Curry	Durham Region Orchid Society	COC Representative
Louise Holt	Windsor Orchid Society	COC Representative
Marilyn Light	Ottawa Orchid Society	Conservation Chair
Albert St Pierre	Essex County Orchid Society	Observer
Inge Poot	Toronto AOS Judging Centre	COC Representative
Robert Morden	Essex County Orchid Society	Observer
Juliette St Pierre	Essex County Orchid Society	COC representative
Barb Morden	Essex County Orchid Society	Observer
Claudia Lister	PEI Orchid Society	Official Delegate
Gail Schwarz	Orchid Society of Nova Scotia	COC Representative, Education Chair
Margaret Hewings	Central Ontario Orchid Society and Royal Botanical Gardens Orchid Society	COC representative and Treasurer
Andre Couture	Ottawa Orchid Society	Observer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 by the president, Jean Hollebhone. She welcomed delegates and thanked COOS for hosting the meeting and all the arrangements. She then asked for a roll call. The president indicated that a quorum of delegates was present and declared the meeting open. She also indicated that 9 societies had given the president proxy to vote as they had indicated in writing.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 22nd AGM held in Langley, B.C. were adopted as distributed with two modifications: Terry Kennedy to be listed as SOOS representative and not as an observer and the next AGM was corrected to be held by the Central Ontario Orchid Society and not by the Southern Orchid Society. With these corrections, Peter Poot moved the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Action: the 22nd AGM Minutes will be corrected by Jean Hollebhone and Jerry Bolce and reposted on the web site. (Peter Poot will re-file with COC lawyers).

3. Business arising from the minutes

Four items of business arising from the minutes were deferred to be addressed the appropriate reports:

- Slide programs continue to be digitized: 2nd Vice president's report
- Implementation of option 3 for insurance program: Insurance report
- Implementation of education grant: Education report
- Letter of appreciation: Secretary's report

4. Reports of the Officers

Reports were mailed August 21 for review by COC reps and societies and will be appended to the minutes.

4.1 President's report: See attached reports

4.2 VP 1 report: See attached reports

4.3 VP2 Report:

Peter reported that there had been no progress on the digitizing of old programs as all need extensive updating, and he concluded that new programs were the way to go. Marilyn Light and Terry Kennedy concurred and indicated that technical problems often occur with old programs and equipment. After much discussion, it was agreed to not digitize the old programs but to develop new ones as volunteers can be found, to provide the programs on a cost recovery fee basis and to continue promotion through the newsletter. Marilyn Light stressed that a number of presentation options need be provided, e.g. slide shows, CD's and flash drives. Carried.

Action: 2nd Vice President

4.4 Secretary's report

In Carole's absence, Jean reported that a letter of appreciation had been sent to Brighthouse with our thanks for producing the COC certificate.

4.5 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported both income and expenditures to date for 2010 and indicated that there would still be some additional expenses to be paid after the AGM and before the end of the year. Expenses are within the projected budget for 2010. The Auditor's report for 2009 was tabled, discussed and approved. All were in favour. Jean thanked Margaret Hewings for her careful accounting of the books and indicated due to Margaret's action in investing excess revenues in GICs the Congress made over \$500 in interest.

5. Committee Reports

Reports were mailed August 21 and will be attached to the minutes. Updates were given at the meeting as follows:

5.1 Newsletter and website report.

Jerry indicated all his mailings are now by e-mail and that 5 newsletters are produced per year. He occasionally has trouble with society e-mail boxes which are full and cautioned societies that have society mail boxes to be more diligent in emptying them regularly. He indicated he is always looking for feedback to improve the web site which is constantly being expanded and updated and urged Societies to make greater use of the site. He also indicated that archives of the COC are on a password-accessible site for use by the executive. Jerry indicated he would welcome more submissions from contributors and thanked those who provide articles to him, in particular Marilyn Light.. He outlined his plans for further articles and indicated he would like to have more material for beginners on the web site. He indicated that most of the culture sheets had been translated in an attempt to make the COC site more useful to francophones and indicated Julie Mertens is working on expanding French language capability on the site.,

5.2 Education report

Gail Schwarz elaborated on her earlier report, indicating that Pleurothallid and Catasetum culture sheets had just been produced and put on the web site and others were expected before the end of the year. She confirmed that six societies had taken advantage of the education grant and outlined the schedule for applying for 2011 grants which will be posted in a newsletter, early in January. In the general discussion that followed, she indicated that all information including criteria and applications forms are on the web site and referred societies to them.

5.3. Conservation Report:

Marilyn began her report by indicating that she had addressed the previous AGM request for more information on native orchids by providing this to Jerry Bolce and both concurred this was now available on the web site. She indicated that she believed orchid conservation is both conservation of orchids in collection and conservation of native plants and she addresses both. She briefly discussed her field work aimed at promoting orchid conservation and native rescue. She emphasized it is important to understand orchids in your collection and referred to a recent presentation she has made on *Understanding what your orchids are telling you* which provides tips for recognizing the needs of orchids in a collection.

She also indicated that she and Jean Hollebhone continue work to clarify requirements for the WOC in Singapore in 2011. However she cautioned that Canada can only act within the world CITES requirements. Jean indicated that she has been meeting with CFIA and new guidelines for Singapore will be available in early January. She also indicated that CFIA is considering additional reductions to their requirements for soil pest declarations for soil-less, bark grown orchids and that these should be available shortly. Both Marilyn and Jean agreed to continue to report on import requirements.

Action: Marilyn Light and Jean Hollebhone

6.0 COC awards

COC awards were given to Jerry Bolce of COOS and Lynne Cassidy, Fraser Valley Orchid Society for distinguished national service to Canadian orchid societies and growers. Both citations will be published in the newsletter.

Jerry's citation read:

*Awarded to **Jerry Bolce**, Central Ontario Orchid Society In recognition and thanks for outstanding national service to the Canadian orchid growing community as webmaster and newsletter editor extraordinaire of the Canadian Orchid Congress*

.Lynne's citation read:

*Awarded to **Lynne Cassidy**, Fraser Valley Orchid Society In recognition and thanks for outstanding national service to the Canadian orchid growing community as a founding organizer and executive of the Canadian Orchid Congress and active supporter of world orchid conservation.*

Our congratulations to these two deserving winners.

7.0 Proposed By law changes

Proposed changes to the Bylaws were circulated for comment on August 21 and one editorial comment was received. However, each proposed change was re-read, and further changes were agreed upon as follows:

- 2a. Change the wording to *Society membership shall mean any not –for-profit orchid organization in Canada.*
- 4a, 4m, 5b, 5o, 6f, 6j 7b Accepted as proposed
- 5l Insert at the beginning of l “*While the usual form of communication by the Board shall be through electronic means...*”
- 6i the wording re the Seal of the Congress shall be left in unchanged in the Bylaws

MOVED BY Marion Curry, Durham Region Orchid Society, Seconded by Juliette St Pierre, Essex County Orchid Society. All in favour 17, Opposed 0. Carried.

8.0 Election of officers

In the absence and behalf of Faithe Prodanuk, Jean Hollebhone presented the proposed slate of officers as follows:

President: Peter Poot, SOOS

1st Vice president: Barbara Bowmar, Okanagan Orchid Society

2nd Vice president: Julian Hnatiw, Orchid Society of Alberta

Treasurer: Andre Couture, Ottawa Orchid Society.

Claudia Lister, PEI Orchid Club, was proposed as secretary from the floor and agreed to accept the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

Moved by Claudia Lister that the slate be accepted, seconded by Terry Kennedy, Carried unanimously.

Congratulations to the new executive.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Appointment of the auditor.

Andre Couture proposed Helen Martin, Chartered accountant, Ottawa as auditor for 2010. Accepted. No objections

9.2 Annual Meeting

2011 Edmonton in February 2011, date to be verified

ACTION: Peter Poot

2012? Eastern societies to be canvassed as a first priority

ACTION: Peter Poot

9.3 Proposal by the Essex County Orchid Society to extend the terms of the Educational Grant

The Essex Orchid Society proposed that *the Education Travel Grant be extended to include the purchase of audiovisual equipment for small and isolated orchid societies.* In the discussion that followed it was suggested that the term AV equipment was too broad and unspecific so the motion was modified to include the purchase of a digital projector. Much discussion ensued. Juliette St Pierre proposed the revised motion, *That the Education Travel Grant be extended to include the purchase of a digital projector for small and isolated orchid societies.*

Marion Curry seconded. The vote was 2 for and 9 against. Not carried.

10.0 New Executive Business

Peter Poot assumed the floor as new president. He thanked Jean and the outgoing Executive for work done and COOS, and in particular, Jerry Bolce and Frank Maine for putting on and organizing such a great meeting. He then outlined the changes he sees affecting orchid hobbyists in the long term: less resources, fewer larger greenhouses, increase in window sill and miniature orchids, changes in Societies, Both members and societies may need help to successfully deal with and surmount change. This is a role for the COC. The purpose of the COC as Peter sees it is to help members talk to each other , e.g. improved communication. He then asked those present to suggest ideas to deal with these issues. Jerry asked who will provide information between meetings on what societies are doing? Jean suggested a way to cut costs and improve communication might be to look into audio conferencing between the Board and the Board/COC reps. Marilyn indicated experience with on line Orchid Safari chat group as a way of disseminating information to hobbyists. The recent initiative by Foothills Orchid Society to determine what other societies did about visitors was cited as an excellent initiative and more like this should be encouraged. Peter challenged all present to share something about your society that makes it work for your members.

ACTION: Ideas to be published in the newsletter.

A second suggestion Peter raised was whether Canada should develop a COC award system for plants grown legally in Canada but which are illegal in the USA. He asked whether these plants could be recognized by the COC after having gone through the standard AOS judging process. It as suggested to look into this further to determine mechanisms and any possible ramifications.

ACTION: the new Board

11. Adjournment

Juliette St Pierre moved the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Andre Couture. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.m.

Many thanks to Terry Kennedy for taking notes of the meeting in the absence of the Secretary who could not be present.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hollebhone for Carole Gert

Other documents:

- 1 Reports of the Officers and Committee Chairs
- 2 The auditor's report 2009
- 3 Interim Financial statement, September, 2010
- 4 Proposed amendments to the Bylaws

Final draft, October 15, 2010