



# Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

**Next Meeting: 19 April 2009**  
**Salle Académique, Rm. 1531**  
**St-Boniface College,**  
**196 De La Cathedrale Av.**

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**Novice Programme**  
Swap & Shop  
**Starts at 1:00PM**

**Regular Programme**  
“Ecology of Orchid Growing”  
by Eddie Wong  
**Starts at 2:00PM**

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## **Bring Plants for Show & Tell**

Plant sales by members are encouraged.

Goodies will be provided by Joan Heshka, Sheila Pilgrim, Phyllis McCaskill & Wendy Chayter

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Website: <http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca>

Executive email: [president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca)

Newsletter email: [newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca)

**Submission deadline 23 April 2009 for May 2009 Issue**



The Manitoba Orchid Society welcomes Evelyn Heide.



May 24: General Meeting Joe Kunish, Bloomfield Orchids will be speaking on growing under lights and bringing plants for sale. We have the opportunity to pre-order. The website is [www.bloomfieldorchids.com](http://www.bloomfieldorchids.com) Deadline for pre-orders is **May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

June 15: General Meeting Bill Thom from Florida will be speaking on Bulbophyllums.

### Benefits of Membership

Manitoba Orchid Society members now receive the following discounts: 10% at La Coste Nursery, 10% at Schriemer Home & Garden Showplace, 10% at Shelmerdine Nurseries & 15% at Village Garden Center, upon presentation of valid membership cards.

### Special Order!

We will be doing a club order from **Cloud's Orchids**, a Canadian vendor. Check out their web site at <http://www.cloudsorchids.com/> and e-mail Jim Roy at [jamesroy@mts.net](mailto:jamesroy@mts.net) with your selections by the April meeting.

### Hearts & Flowers

If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Morganne Jerome and let her know.



To Ilsa Chaytor for bringing flowering plants to the March Show & Tell.

### Ever Spring Orchids Open House

Ever Spring Orchids will have their annual Open House on May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are located 2868 Pipeline Road, north of the North Perimeter Highway. Website is <http://www.everspringorchids.ca/> Phone number is 338-2340.



The Executive encourages all members to provide feedback, comments, suggestions by filling out a comment sheet available from the Secretary at all General Meetings.

All signed comment sheets should be returned to any member of the Executive. They will be reviewed at the next Executive Meeting and you will be informed of follow-up action taken.

## **2007/2008 Executive**

### **Elected**

President Dave Moran  
Past President Joyce Jaworski  
1st V.P. Kyle Lucyk  
2nd V.P./Show Chair Lorne Heshka  
Treasurer Garnet Ward  
Secretary Morganne Jerome

### **Appointed**

Membership Gary Jaworski  
Social Eva Slavicek  
Public Relations  
Special Orders Jim Roy  
AOS/COC Rep Kevin Duerksen  
Library Lilianne Foster  
Newsletter Robert Parsons  
Webmaster Robert Kato

### **Editor's Note**

I thought I should point out a few items that may be of interest.

By the time you see this, our show will be over, but this was written before it took place so you will not see any show-related items in this issue. I hope to have photographs, as well as the list of all awards from the show in the May newsletter, along with any other highlights and items of interest.

If you find yourself short of space for all your plants after the show, as I strongly suspect I will in spite of my best intentions to the contrary, why not bring some of your excess to the novice meeting Swap & Shop in April? It serves two purposes—a chance to free space for you, and an opportunity for others to try out a new plant or two.

We will be doing a club order with Cloud's Orchids this year. The really nice thing about this is, as a Canadian vendor, we don't have to groan over the exchange rate. The prices listed in the catalog are the real prices. I've ordered plants from them in the past and was very impressed with the size and health of what I got.

This year the third Sunday in May falls on the long weekend. As a result, our May meeting will be held a week later, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Please note this on your calendars.

After offering our members a 15% discount for many years, Schriemer's Home & Garden Showplace can no longer afford to do so because of rising fuel costs. Fortunately, they are still offering a 10% discount. An updated list of discounts available to society members can be found on Page 2.

Finally, note the Ever Spring Orchids Open House on May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. It's always a fun event. More details are on Page 2.

*Robert Parsons*

## Cutting It Off and Throwing It Out By Carol Siegel

They say an orchid expert is someone who has killed more than a thousand orchids so you would think we would be experts on when something is dead. However, when it comes to orchids, you can be fooled. Plants that look dead sometimes are just resting, and flower spikes that look finished often come back and produce flowers for months.

I get calls all the time from very upset people who say that all the leaves have fallen off their orchids. They wonder what they have done wrong. Well, some orchids naturally lose their leaves. The bottom old leaf of an orchid like a phalaenopsis often dies and turns yellow. It is not your fault when some other pseudobulb sits there all naked for months on end. In October or November, the leaves of plants like *Lycaste* begin to turn brown and fall off preparing for the dormancy of the plant. *Catasetum* and some *Calanthe* like *Calanthe Rozel* orchids lose their leaves at a time when the dry season would naturally occur. Reduce watering to a bare minimum and keep the plant on the cool side if possible. One day a little green sprout will occur, and you can resume watering and fertilizing normally as the green sprout seems to mature over night. Some like *pleiones* require a completely dry rest and shut down for the winter.

*Cycnoches* species and hybrids, called the "Swan Orchids" are deciduous, too. One of the most beautiful is *Cycnoches chlorochilon* whose male flower really looks like a swan. It has several huge green to yellow flowers up to six inches across with a white lip and a column forming the shape of a swan. Don't be upset when the leaves fall off. In a few months, another swan will emerge.

*Mormodes*, related to *Catasetum*, loses its leaves as well. Although the growth looks just like a *Catasetum*, the flowers are highly unusual. The lips always twist and the flower spike is often slightly pendant with fragrant flowers. *Mormodes*, *Cycnoches* and *Catasetum* all have heavily-perfumed flowers that drive male euglossine bees wild. They collect the fragrant waxes with their little brushes on their front feet, becoming drunk, staggering around, losing all muscular control- and pollinating the orchid.

*Dendrobium loddigesii* and the nobile-type *Dendrobium* as well as the *D. anosmum* group should be allowed to get dry so the leaves fall off. Usually there is a bract around all or part of the pseudobulb that will turn brown when it has stopped growing. The cane also makes a terminal leaf at the top to show that it is complete. It then rests until a new shoot appears at the base of the most recent pseudobulb. Until then, just give enough watering to prevent shriveling or flower production will be way down in the spring. Relax and enjoy your rest, and don't water for a couple of months.

*Galeandra* is a small jewel which fools us twice. Like *Catasetum* and the others, it loses its leaves but fools us again by blooming again on an old spike like an equitant *Oncidium*. You think the spike is dead, just all played out, and then it will bloom again. DON'T CUT THAT SPIKE!! This small orchid can be in bloom for long periods before ending its blooming cycle. The pseudobulbs are only an inch wide with the inflorescence rising from the middle of its six to eight soft, matte green leaves. *G. baueri* and *G. batemanii* are easy to grow and flower. As the plant matures, it blooms consecutively for longer and longer periods, throwing clusters of five or six blooms. I had a *Galeandra divas* that had some buds blast, and I despaired, but soon more buds were forming.

What are some of the orchids that will bloom again on an old spike? The Butterfly Orchid, *Psychopsis papilio*, syn *Oncidium papilio*, thrusts forth one rigid elongated oval leaf, and a long wiry inflorescence emerges from the base of the pseudobulbs. Good growers can have as many as 10 or more spikes, each of which can bloom every three to five weeks all year for many years until the old spikes die. Don't cut that spike or you miss all that fun. The spike may look dead—but it is not!

*Encyclia cochleata*, the Clamshell Orchid, can also bloom consecutively for several months on the same spike. The sheath emerges from between two sword-shaped, skinny leaves on top of the oval pseudobulb and can take several months before they flower. When mature, this orchid can bloom year-round, emitting a sweet fragrance. The flower looks like a clam shell, usually with an almost-black, purplish shell top and lime-green petals radiating from the base of the shell. Even if you replot this plant when in bloom, it will continue to flower. This one loves to bloom.

There is a group of *Masdevallias* that re-bloom when you don't cut the spike off. The easiest to grow is *Masdevallia infracta*, normally with a small purple and white flower

with yellow tails. Its re-blooming traits are transmitted to its hybrids, such as *M. Pixie* which can have 10 or more flowers open three or four times a year. Another beautiful *Masdevallia* that will send out a bud weeks after the first has fallen is *Masdevallia Red Wing*. The flowers are intensely colored and rise high above the lovely foliage.

The perfect orchid to bloom for the home grower is *Phalaenopsis*, and several species also have this same re-blooming orchid. *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*, *P. lueddemanniana* and *P. celebensis* are other species that keep blooming after the first flowers have faded. Most of the phals sold by growers like Norman's Orchids will re-bloom for months. In addition, cutting back a flower spike to a lower node will almost always get you a second blooming on that spike. A single plant can be in bloom for as much as nine months!! No wonder phals are the best-selling orchids in the world.

My personal favorite among all orchids is anything *Phragmipedium* at all. There is a group of species that do the sequential blooming trick, and the spikes last as much as six months. The spike continues to elongate, producing flower after flower after flower. I had a *Sorcerer's Apprentice* where I finally had to cut off the spike because it had elongated so much that it touched the ceiling!! Talk about value. Some of the easy to cultivate species are *P. longifolium*, *P. pearcei*, *P. sargenteanum*, *P. schlimii*, although the slightly more difficult *P. besseae* and *P. boissierianum* are just lovely. All their hybrids keep their flowering habit. I especially like *P. Eric Young* and *P. Dick Clemens* and *P. Grande* and .... Get it?

Another slipper orchid that sometimes sends out bud after bud is the genus *Paphiopedilum*. *Paph chamberlainianum*, *P. glaucophyllum*, *P. primulinum*, *P. victoria regina* are just some of the sequentially-flowering paphs. Many of the hybrids like *P. Pinocchio* (*primulinum X glaucophyllum*) will act in the same way.

There are many other orchids with spikes that rebloom and leaves that fall off. Just remember that when an orchid or its spike looks dead, it may be just the beginning.

*From Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society Newsletter, June, 2004*

## **Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting March 15, 2009**

*Recorder: Joan Heshka*

### **1. Call to order:**

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed members and a guest to our meeting.

Minutes of the January executive meeting are available upon request.

Goodies for April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting: Joan Heshka, Sheila Pilgrim, Phyllis McCaskill, Wendy Chayter

Program: An excellent, informative presentation by Kyle Lucyk on Phragmipedium species, hybrids and their culture.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting:**

Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by Joan Heshka, seconded by Fran Cass, carried.

### **3. Financial report: Garnet Ward**

Garnet presented the financial report and moved acceptance of it, seconded by Rob Parsons, carried.

### **4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk**

Joe Kunish, Bloomfield Orchids for April; Leon Gleikensten formerly of Hoosiers Orchids; June Bill Thom from - Florida on Bulbophyllums.

### **5. Show Chairperson Report: Lorne Heshka**

Asked any who intend to enter displays to call him; Judges will be speaking on Sat A.M. Ernest Geimenhart on "Growing under lights", Kathy Creger on "Cooties on My Orchids" Joan has a food sign-up sheet; advertising posters are available and Joyce made an announcement regarding the banquet asking if your choice for the banquet is chicken - please advise Joyce ASAP (Deadline to order Monday March 16.)

### **6. AOS/COC Representative: Kevin Duerksen**

Kevin reported that the COC Newsletter is available on-line, culture sheets on-line, next COC Show in Langley BC Oct 15-18, 2009, and a proposal has been made to modify the COC Award to include Award Certificates. Speak to Kevin if you have thoughts on this - it will be voted on by all Orchid Societies.

### **7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek**

No report.

### **8. Library: Lilianne Foster**

No report.

**9. Public Relations:**

This position is still vacant. We need help to fill it.

**10. Membership: Gary Jaworski**

We have 120 members.

**11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons**

No report.

**12. Website: Robert Kato**

No report.

**13. Special Orders: Jim Roy**

Jim was absent but advised that next special order will be from Cloud Orchids - plants listed on web-site - orders need to be in by April 19th.

**14. Old business:**

Dave reported that we still are in need of a PR person and someone to transport the PA System.

**15. New business:**

Commended Rob Kato for having mobile signs placed on Roblin & on Portage, advertising the orchid show.

**16. Raffle draw:**

Raffle winners not recorded.

**17. Show & Tell**

Lorne Heshka described the plants, two Dendrobiums brought in by our youngest member, Ilsa Chayter.

**18. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn - Rob Kato.

Note: Minutes of the Executive Meetings are available to be picked up at General Meetings on request from the Secretary.