



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 18 January 2009
Salle Académique, Rm. 1531
St-Boniface College,
196 De La Cathedrale Av.

Novice Programme

Tips on culture of some fostered
conservatory plants, including Chinese
Paphiopedilums by Judy Browne
Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

COC slide presentation on Cattleyas by
Kyle Lucyk
Starts at 2:00PM

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

Plant sales by members are encouraged.
Goodies will be provided by Joyce Jaworski, Bonnie Davies, Caroline Lenover & Lilianne Foster.

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 22 January 2009 for February 2009 Issue

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| <p>Help Needed!</p> | <p>We are in need of someone to transport the PA system to our general meetings and store it between them. Please consider helping out with this much-needed item for our programs.</p> |
|  | <p>January 18, 2009: General Meeting COC slide presentation on Cattleyas by Kyle Lucyk. Novice Program by Judy Browne on culture tips for assorted plants, including Chinese Paphiopediums.</p> <p>February 15, 2009: General Meeting Hardy Orchids with Lorne Heshka.</p> |
| <p>Orchid Tour of Ecuador</p> | <p>Kyle Lucyk is organizing/coordinating an orchid tour of Ecuador, surrounding the international orchid show and conference in Ecuador in Early February 2009. More info on the show is available here: http://www.quitoorchidexpo2009.org/en.htm The tour will be 10 days. For more info on the tour, the cost and an itinerary contact Kyle at kylelucyk@gmail.com or call him at 284-1195.</p> |
| <p>Hearts & Flowers</p> | <p>If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Morganne Jerome and let her know.</p> |
| <p>Anyone for bark?</p> | <p>Kimberly will bring in bark in 2 cu ft bags if at least 40 bags are ordered. The shipping costs are high. I cannot get the premium bark any longer but I can bring in a bark of a lesser quality but still very good. Price per bag is 35.00 I would like payment in advance of pick-up. Fine and Medium is available. Stock up, as I won't be bringing any more in at all. Email bamboobaby@shaw.ca</p> |
|  | <p>To Kevin Duerksen & Kimberly Pronyshyn for bringing flowering plants to the December Show & Tell on a very cold day.</p> |
|  <p>Suggestion Box Help us help you</p> | <p>The Executive encourages all members to provide feedback, comments, suggestions by filling out a comment sheet available from the Secretary at all General Meetings.</p> <p>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.</p> |

2009 Manitoba Orchid Society Show & Sale “Tropical Treasures”

Show Chair Report by Lorne Heshka

The Theme of our orchid show this year is "Tropical Treasures" and a special thanks to Denise Fortier for this title.

With the tender love and care we give our orchid plants, we do "treasure" them when they bloom. The orchid show gives us an opportunity to share our successes with the general public. Most of the people who attend our shows can't imagine how it is possible, in our climate, to coax these plants to produce such exotic blooms.

For those who have never entered a display of orchids - here is your chance! The theme "Tropical Treasures" provides us with a host of thoughts on how we may display our plants. You don't have to have a large number of plants to make a display. Remember - last year one of the winning displays was composed of one plant in a creative setting. To get you thinking - here are some definitions of the words "Treasure" and "Tropical".

Treasure is defined as:

*An accumulation of precious possessions
Something considered exceptionally precious
Something unusually desirable
A gem, pearl or prize*

Tropical is defined as:

" of, being, or characteristic of a region or climate that is frost-free with temperatures high enough to support year-round plant growth given sufficient moisture"

Most of us associate the word "treasure" with "a treasure chest" or "hunting for treasure" or "pirates" or "gold and silver" or "jewelry".

Let your imagination run wild - you will surprise yourself and we are looking forward to seeing your creations!

Confirmed Show Vendors:

The following vendors have indicated they will be attending our show. It's not too early to start browsing for ideas! If you have questions, call or e-mail Kevin Duerksen at 633-0314 or Kevin.Duerksen@shaw.ca

Orchids by Kimberly - Winnipeg <http://members.shaw.ca/orchidsbykimberly/> (204) 632-6177

Everspring - Winnipeg <http://www.everspringorchids.ca/> Phone: (204) 338-2340

Orchids in Our Tropics - Gormley, ON <http://www.orchidsinourtropics.com/>
Phone/Fax: (905) 727-3319

Mike Gabrielson - Sherwood Park, A.B. (780) 410-1571

Paramount Orchids - Calgary <http://www.paramountorchids.com/about.html>
Phone: (403) 686-7021

Orchids Limited - Plymouth MN U.S.A. <http://www.orchidweb.com/>
Phone: (800) 669-6006 or (763) 559-6425 Fax: (763) 557-6956

How I Grow Masdevallia Orchids

By Ruthanne Hanbidge

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of culture articles by Saskatoon Orchid Society members who are known for growing fine plants and appeared in the June issue of their newsletter.

About 365 species of Masdevallias are distributed from southern Mexico to southern Brazil and they survive in the mountainous rain or cloud forests. Because of this natural habitat, they are constantly bathed in clouds and mists.

Temperature

As the introduction suggests, Masdevallias are cool growing orchids and well suited to my little greenhouse, which is a cool house. The average daytime temperature is between 55-68 degrees F. (12.7-20 degrees C.), and the nighttime temperature ranges between 46-60 degrees F. (7.8-15.5 degrees C.).

In the summer months I generally place all my orchids outside and my Masdevallias are situated in a northern exposure. When summer temperatures rise, I will put my plants in my garage where it is really quite cool and mist them almost every morning. On extremely warm days I will mist them several times a day.

Light

In the greenhouse in winter the plants are under two-tube florescent lights. In the summertime when they are outside, they are sheltered from direct sunlight with medium shade.

Air Movement and Humidity

I try to maintain good to quite strong air movement in order to avoid the problems of high humidity and to ensure a buoyant atmosphere. In the greenhouse I have many fans and I direct one fairly large fan continuously about three to four feet from the plants. The good air circulation allows me to maintain a high humidity that averages between 75 and 90 percent, depending on the temperature and potting mixture. I consider 65 percent humidity to be the absolute minimum for Masdevallias.

Water

I use rainwater as need to keep the potting mix evenly damp and fresh. Do not water so heavily that the medium becomes wet or sodden. The PH is adjusted to around 6-7.

Fertilizer

Masdevallias are not heavy feeders. I have used a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) mixed at a rate of 1/8 teaspoon per 2 litres of water. I fertilize every two to three weeks depending on the season and mix. More recently I have been using MSU at 1/8 the recommended strength.

Potting Mixture

My potting mix is:
4 parts fine fir bark
2-3 parts tree fern
1-2 parts charcoal
1 part perlite.

I use styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot for drainage. Lately I have experimented with leica pellets in the bottom as this adds weight to the potted plant.

I do not repot my Madevallias during the summer, for they do not liked to be disturbed during warm weather. I grow my Masdevallias and Miltoniopsis together and they seem to thrive in the same conditions.

For bug infestation I use an alcohol spray or Q tips dipped in alcohol and then wash the plant off with water. To minimize any type of infestation, it is important to observe your plants every day to catch any problems before they multiply.



Masdevallia decumana
Photo by keefahmax (Keith Harder)

Flower induction

I do not engage in any cultural changes to induce flowering. Keep the plants healthy and happy and they will bloom on their own schedule. Good Growing!



Masvevallia igneus
Photo by Greg Allikas



Masdevallia coccinea
Photo By Joseph Dougherty

Q&A - What causes a tube leaf?

Howard Ginsberg

I have heard that "tube leaf" (a flower spike growing from the center of a Doritaenopsis thereby preventing the normal growth of subsequent leaves from this point) is a genetic flaw frequently found in Dtps. Pretty Nice. I have also heard that this condition can be influenced by culture. If so, what cultural conditions can cause or preferably prevent tube leaf? My Dtps. Pretty Nice 'Purple Magic' bloomed terminally the first time then once spiked normally from the same plant and after the maturation of a keiki it bloomed normally? Does the age of the plant have anything to do with this?

Tube leaves not only happen in Doritaenopsis but are also known throughout the realm of monopodials. The inflorescence grows up through the growing centre of the plant and the plant then ceases to grow. However most plants will then throw keikis.

I have heard many explanations, the most probable having a link with culture. The tube leaf and subsequent keikis have been described as "a last desperate attempt at survival". Presumably therefore there was a serious possibly long-standing problem with culture. Trying to guess what the problem is in any one case is virtually impossible. If all other plants requiring the same culture (Phalaenopsis and Doritaenopsis) are growing well, it may not be culture but **possibly** a problem with the genetic makeup of the plant. (A mutation during the tissue culture stage?)

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High Performance Garden Lighting

High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lighting has formed the core of lighting technology in the horticulture industry for the last 20 or so years. Metal Halide (MY) and High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights are the most commonly used variants of the HID family. This is no surprise as HID lights offer the most lumens per watt in practical lighting systems. So what about fluorescent lamp (FL) technology? Although their spectrum is fat and broad and can be tailored specifically to maximize lumen power in the most sensitive areas of the photosynthetic curve (i.e. most PAR watts), their overall light output and price make them less than ideal replacements for HID lights. FLs, especially Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) definitely have their place and when used properly, they are an exceptional supplement to traditional high-lumen HID lights. FLs have the capability to dramatically boost photosynthesis, improve plant health and enhance flower quality and size.

- Thanks to Richard Tamassy, via Regina Orchid Society

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting December 14, 2008

Recorder: Morganne Jerome

1. Call to order:

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 3:10pm

Dave welcomed all members and guests to the annual MOS Christmas Party Potluck Dinner.

Approved Executive Meeting minutes and suggestion slips are available from the Secretary (Morganne Jerome) at all General Meetings (please include your name on the suggestion slip for follow-up purposes, and submit it to any Executive member).

Volunteers to bring refreshments for the January meeting: Joyce Jaworski, Bonnie Davies, Caroline Lenover, Lillian Foster.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting, as published, proposed by Morganne Jerome, seconded by Kimberly Pronyshyn, carried.

3. Financial report: Garnet Ward

Garnet presented the financial report - copies available.

4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk

January: General Meeting: Kyle will present a COC slide show on the topic of Cattleyas.

Novice Meeting: Judy Browne will share tips on caring for the fostered orchids from the Conservatory, with emphasis on the care of the Chinese papahs.

February: General Meeting: Lorne Heshka will give a presentation on hardy orchids. The annual MOS Show will also be discussed.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Lorne Heshka

The Show book will be out in January 2009.

The proposed Show budget has been prepared, copies available.

Both the proposed Show and MOS budgets will be voted on at the January General Meeting.

The MOS has arranged to pay the Conservatory a flat \$1500 fee for the Show this year, rather than sharing 50% of the profits.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kevin Duerksen

No report

7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

Eva thanked everyone for bringing items to the potluck, and wished all members a merry Christmas.

8. Library: Lillian Foster

No report.

9. Public Relations: Vacant

Please let any Executive member know if you are willing and able to fill this position.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

115 members signed up so far.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

Robert was absent, no report.

12. Website: Robert Kato

No report.

13. Special Orders: Jim Roy

No report

14. Unfinished Business:

The Executive position of Public Relations remains open, please consider volunteering.

A volunteer for bringing the PA equipment to each General Meeting is also still urgently required.

Please contact Dave or Lorne if you are willing and able to help.

Conservatory Fostering: Dave informed members that the Federal Government is still involved with the confiscated Chinese paphs.

Dave wished everyone Happy Holidays, and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

15. Raffle draw:

Raffle winners were not recorded.

16. Show & Tell

Ed Maza described the plants.

17. Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment - Joyce Jaworski

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

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