



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

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

Regular Programme: Annual Auction

Starts at 1:00 P.M. (note time is earlier than the usual meetings) with plants being accepted after 12:15 P.M. This year's proceedings of plant sales will again be split 30% for the club and 70% for the contributing member. This policy will be reviewed in future years, depending on the financial health of the club.

Ensure you have 2 tags in each pot, one with your name and the other with the name of the plant.

Plants must be sold through the auction only—no other selling of plants is permitted at the October meeting.

Only members in good standing (i.e. membership paid up) may buy or sell plants at the auction.

No Novice Program and no Show & Tell




Goodies will be provided by Chris Schnell, Joan Heshka, Irene Landry & Caroline Lenover

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 22 October 2009 for November 2009 Issue

<p>We need a new home!</p>	<p>After many years of holding our meetings at St-Boniface College, the Manitoba Orchid Society must find a new venue. If you have any ideas for one, please let the executive know. We must have a new facility lined up by January 2010.</p>
	<p>October 18th: Annual Auction will follow a brief business meeting. November 15th: MOS General Meeting: Topic TBA December 13th: MOS Christmas Party</p>
<p>AOS Calendars</p>	<p>Orders for the 2010 American Orchid Society calendars are being taken now. The deadline is the November MOS meeting. Price is \$11.65 U.S. <u>plus exchange and shipping</u>. Send orders in to Kevin Duerksen at kevind76@mts.net or 633-0314.</p>
<p>For Sale!</p>	<p>Two High Sodium lights for sale, one with a large high polished reflector, as well as some sheet metal pans in various sizes from 6 feet by 3 feet and smaller. Perfect for growing orchids.</p> <p>Also some high quality bark and sponge rock for sale.</p> <p>Call Kimberly at 632-6177 for details.</p>
<p>Hearts & Flowers</p>	<p>If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Phyllis McCaskill and let her know.</p>
	<p>To Arturo Alejandro, Kevin Duerksen, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Leona Heshka, Lorne Heshka, Jerry Lenover, Kyle Lucyk, Darlene Stack, and Josh & Esther Yamada for bringing flowering plants to the September Show & Tell.</p>
<p>Benefits of Membership</p>	<p>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.</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>

Editor's Message

By Robert Parsons

It's October and if you're a long-time Manitoba Orchid Society, I don't need to say so, but for any new members, October means it's time for our auction!

I hope many members attend, as this event is one of the major fundraisers for the club. Speaking for myself, I can't see how any member could stay away from this, barring great personal tragedy in his or her life. I almost always seem to bring home more plants than I bring to sell. I don't have enough space for the plants I already have, yet somehow I always seem to find room for the new acquisitions.

Remember Rob's Rules of Orchids:

Rule #1: There is always room for one more orchid.

Rule #2: There is always room for two more orchids.

Rule #3: See Rule #1.

Rule #4: If you don't have enough credit to buy more orchids, get more credit.

Believe it or not, I found these on a website and I wasn't the Rob in question. I've happily embraced the rules, though!

If you're a novice and wishing assistance, identify yourself to the executive when you arrive and we will team you up with an experienced grower who can help you decide if an orchid is right for your growing conditions.

A final reminder is perhaps in order. Your membership must be paid up at the beginning of the meeting or you cannot sell or bid on any plants. This will be the last newsletter you receive if your membership is not renewed.

2007/2008 Executive

Elected

President Dave Moran

Past President Joyce Jaworski

1st V.P. Kyle Lucyk

2nd V.P./Show Chair Rob Kato

Treasurer Garnet Ward

Secretary Phyllis McCaskill

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

Nominations for the COC Certificate

Excerpts from the COC president concerning the COC Certificate:

Awarded in recognition of individuals or groups for outstanding service to the Canadian orchid world. To be awarded by the COC on the basis of well supported proposals by member society(s) or individuals.

Criteria: To be awarded to individuals or groups for one or more of the following:

1. Outstanding service to the Canadian Orchid community in organization, promotion or leadership.
2. Outstanding achievement in orchid research, hybridizing, culture or conservation.

Number per year: No limit, based on merit.

Selection Process: Well supported proposals by member society(s), or individuals.

Publication: To be awarded, celebrated, and published in the COC newsletter with appropriate commentary.

1. Proposals will be accepted by the COC secretary up to four months before the AGM at which the certificate(s) are to be awarded (in extenuating circumstances the president may choose to waive the four months requirement).

The proposals should be no more than 1 page in length and should indicate:

- Name of the Candidate(s)
- Category being honoured
- Justification why the candidate deserves the honour (not to exceed 500 words):
 - national service
 - research excellence
 - conservation contributions etc
- Name(s) of persons that support the nomination including their relationship to the candidate.

In order to be awarded at the 2009 COC meeting, submissions need to be in to the COC rep, Kevin Duerksen **before** Oct 5 (waiving the 4 month requirement). Contact kevind76@mts.net or 633-0314. E-mail or mail in your proposal to me before that date, so I can send it in to the COC secretary.



Orchids For Everyone at Ever Spring Orchids, Saturday November 7

Ever Spring Orchids are holding their very first orchid competition this fall, and are calling it 'Orchids for Everyone'. People are encouraged to bring in one or two of their best flowering plants. No more than two plants, please, because of space constraints.

There will be prizes for the best plants, including a GPS system, DVD Portable Player, Digital Camera, Cordless Phone, USB Flash Drive.

Note this is open to hobbyists only—no vendors. Please bring only healthy plants—all others will be refused entry. Entrants should bring their plants on Friday, November 6th by 5:00 P.M. when judging will take place. Plants will remain on display until 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, when you can pick them up. As space is limited, pre-registration is encouraged and will be given priority.

To pre-register space, or for additional information, please phone: 1-204-338-2340

If we need a further inducement to attend, they are offering up to 70% discounts on their plants for sale.

10 EASY ORCHID MISTAKES

By Don Bednarczyk

Taken from the April 2009 issue of Orchiflora, the newsletter of the Vancouver Orchid Society. Reproduced here with a few minor editorial changes.

1. **Trying to grow plants that are meant to be disposable.**

Most of the plants sold at grocery stores and flower shops are meant to be disposed of, after they finish blooming. They have been grown fast and hard and forced to bloom early. They are exhausted and need several years of good growing conditions to be strong enough to bloom again. The strongest plants come from plants purchased at orchid shows and from orchid growers.

2. **Over watering.** Most common orchids are epiphytic plants. They grow attached to trees or rocks. These orchids have roots that have evolved to soak up water during a rain and dry out between rains. If kept constantly wet and buried in a pot these roots suffocate and die.

More orchids are killed by overwatering than in any other way. Really dry your plants out between each watering.

The weight of the pot is a good indicator of how much water it still contains. Also remember that orchids need fairly high humidity. Adding more water at the roots will not compensate for low humidity and will usually cause the roots to rot.

3. **Not enough light.** Orchids need as much light as possible without burning the leaves to flower well or at all. Dark green leaves look pretty but they mean the plant is not getting enough light. Your goal should be light green leaves, not yellow-green or deep green.

4. **Too much light.** Too much light, especially too much direct sunlight, can burn the orchid's leaves and make them useless for photosynthesis. Again the goal is light green leaves. A little bit of purple pigmentation is showing the orchid is getting the absolute maximum amount of light it can stand and is a sign you should back off a little bit. Like people, orchids can adapt to extra sunlight. But like people, they cannot do it overnight. Increase light slowly over a couple of weeks.

5. **Keeping your orchids at a constant temperature day and night.**

Orchids use the energy they have trapped in the process of photosynthesis both day and night. You can reduce the amount of energy the plant uses at night by lowering the temperature by 5 to 10 degrees Celsius from the daytime temperature. It can then use the saved energy for growth and flowering.

6. **Not remembering that seasons change.**

When the days get shorter orchids do not need as much water. When autumn begins you should water less. When the days get longer and the sun gets stronger orchids can get too much light and burn. And your orchids will need more water. February is an especially dangerous month in Vancouver for the sun suddenly damaging your orchids.

7. Not repotting frequently enough.

Fir bark and sphagnum moss break down over a year or two and get water sodden. This can kill orchid roots. So do not neglect repotting an orchid even if it looks like there is still plenty of room in the pot. It is not space you are concerned about; it is the condition of the growing media.

8. Crushing the roots when repotting.

Orchid roots are brittle and crush easily. Once crushed the roots die. So do not press down hard on the potting media when repotting.

Gently tease the media down between the roots with a dull knife or a chopstick. If you soak the orchid for an hour before repotting the roots are a bit stronger. Also, after repotting, do not water for at least a week so the roots have time to heal without being stressed. If you soaked the plant before repotting this will not be a problem.

9. Using regular garden fertilizer. Most garden fertilizer has urea as a nitrogen source. Plants cannot absorb nitrogen in the form of urea. They rely on soil bacteria to change the urea to nitrates and ammonium compounds the orchids can absorb. Orchids are not in soil so the necessary bacteria are not there. Use a fertilizer designed for orchids or one designed for hydroponics.

10. Over fertilizing. Orchids are intolerant of excess salts in the potting media. Always make sure that you flush out the media with clean water at least once or twice between fertilizer applications. Never apply fertilizer at the same strength you would use for house or garden plants. One teaspoon per gallon (0.5mL/L) is the maximum strength for orchids. A half-teaspoon per gallon (0.25 mL/L) is actually enough. Excess salts will cause the leaf tips to turn black and burn and can destroy the roots in the pots.

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting September 20, 2009

Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill

1. Call to order:

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m., and welcomed all to the September meeting.

New members Kate and Mike McIntyre, and Diane Tolgyessy were welcomed.

Minutes from the Executive meeting were approved and are available from the secretary Phyllis McCaskill.

It was noted that suggestion slips are available at all general meetings and that those submitting same should include their names for follow-up purposes, and that they may be submitted to any executive member.

Volunteers for October refreshments are: Chris Schnell, Joan Heshka, Irene Landry, and Caroline Lenover.

Kyle Lucyk introduced our guest speaker Jason Fischer who gave a presentation on *Phragmipedium* breeding.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting, as published, moved by Phyllis McCaskill and seconded by Robert Kato. - Carried.

3. Financial report: Garnet Ward

Garnet presented the year end financial report to the end of August, and the Orchid Show financial report summary. Copies of these reports are available.

Garnet requested assistance to record bids for the October auction.

Motion to accept financial reports as presented was moved by Garnet Ward and seconded by Pat Turenne – carried.

4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk

The auction is in October, with the doors opening at 12:15 p.m. for set-up and receiving of plants with the auction to beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Monies received for a plant or plants sale shall remain the same as last year with 70 % to the member and 30 % to the club. Jerry Lenover volunteered to be the auctioneer.

Nothing is confirmed for the November meeting at this time. The Christmas party will be on December 13th.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Robert Kato

The show committee will be meeting soon to begin planning for the show.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kevin Duerksen

There is a sign-up sheet for the AOS calendar or one can also e-mail Kevin. The price is still undetermined due to the fluctuating American dollar.

Kevin will attend the COC meeting in Langley, B.C.

Nominations will be accepted for a new award (certificate) for anything of merit pertaining to orchids. If there is someone that you wish to nominate, you may see Kevin.

7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

Reports that someone left a plastic food container after the last meeting.

8. Library: Lilianne Foster

Requests everyone to check and see if they have any MOS books at home that should be turned in.

9. Public Relations:

This position is vacant.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

We have 75 members have paid for their memberships to date.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

As Rob will be away, the deadline for the newsletter is Tuesday, and as a result, the minutes for this meeting may not be in this newsletter, and if so they will be included in the following months' newsletter.

12. Website: Rob Kato

Nothing to report.

13. Special Orders:

This position is vacant.

14. Unfinished business:

Someone is needed to transport and to store the P.A. system, and there are still a number of unfilled positions.

15. New business:

Someone is needed to shop for raffle prizes as Joan will not be doing that this term. St. Boniface College requires more space for students so they can no longer accommodate our group. Ideas are needed for a new meeting place commencing January 01, 2010.

16. Raffle draw:

Winners were Leona Heshka, Hank Egberts (2), Rachelle Ginsberg, Lorne Heshka, Ilsa Chaytor, Lilianne Foster, and Phyllis McCaskill.

17. Show & Tell:

Jason Fischer described the plants with the assistance of Kyle Lucyk.

18. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Joyce Jaworski at 4.00 p.m.

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