



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 20 September 2009
Salle Académique, Rm. 1531
St-Boniface College,
196 De La Cathedrale Av.

Novice Programme

Do It Yourself Orchid Mount Construction
by Kyle Lucyk

Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

Phragmipediums by Jason Fischer of
Orchids Limited

Starts at 2:00PM

Note there is no selling of plants by members at the September meeting.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

Goodies will be provided by Wendy Chaytor, Horst Hack, Ilsa Chaytor & Lilianne Foster

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 25 September 2009 for October 2009 Issue



September 20th: General Meeting: A presentation by Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited, on Phrags. Jason will be bringing plants for sale, and so there will be no selling of plants by members.

Novice Meeting: Orchid Mount Construction with Kyle Lucyk.

October 18th: Annual Auction. Start preparing your plants for sale.

COC Annual General Meeting and Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale

Thursday, Oct. 15 to Sunday, Oct. 18
At the George Preston Recreation Centre, 42nd Ave and 207th St, Langley, BC
Details on the show and AGM can be found on the COC and FVOS websites.

<http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/agm09.html>
http://www.orchidbc.ca/index_files/page0003.htm

Hearts & Flowers

If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call an executive member and let him or her know.



To Arturo Alejandro, Wendy Chaytor, Kevin Duerksen, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Joyce Jaworski, Kyle Lucyk, Ed Maza, Darlene Moar & Robert Parsons for bringing flowering plants to the June "Show & Tell".



Suggestion Box
Help us help you

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 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

IN THE BEGINNING: Fall in the Orchid House

By Ernest E. Hetherington

Fall is a gentle time of the year, in our lives and in the activities, which center on our orchid collections. The heat of summer has gone except for the few short-lived periods of real summery weather, which always seems to squeeze themselves into this time of year. By the end of September the growth on most plants has slowed down markedly. The growths on the Cattleyas are made up and carrying the sheaths which will bear blooms through the fall, winter, and into next spring. Not until around next March will the plants' growth quicken and develop with the speed, which they grow all through the blazing summer months. Fall is one of the most exciting seasons to the Cattleya fancier, for at this time some of the most flamboyant and colorful hybrids bloom.

The hybrids from *Cattleya labiata* are truly magnificent. Many of our best yellow Cattleyas bloom then also. The magnificent white Bow Bells and Joyce Hannington hybrids flower all through the fall and into the early winter. Flower shows are especially colorful because of the many and varied Cattleya hybrids and the great number of miscellaneous species, which are fall blooming. This is in contrast to the spring shows in which Cymbidiums and Phalaenopsis are the major genera especially throughout the West Coast states.

By the end of September it is no longer advisable to do much Cattleya repotting as plants do not establish well throughout the fall and winter months. Take special care of plants, which have been repotted to see they are not kept too wet. Seedlings or plants which can be shifted on without dividing, can be handled without much danger. Fall is a time when you must adjust growing conditions in your orchid house. The days are shorter than those of the long summer months and there is much less light. This is the time when you must take off most of the summer shading. Do not change from heavy shading to clear glass abruptly or you'll get burn. Remember though, more light now or flower quality will be poor and the growths will be weak.

The need for maintaining good culture and the right environment for orchid plants is being increasingly recognized. What is meant by this? Basically, that it is better to have a few well grown plants in an average orchid house which are not too crowded; to give them enough food, water, pest control and disease sprays, than to have twice as many which receive poor care. A bit of advice here is: learn to grow your orchids properly if you wish to get full enjoyment. Further, on fall and winter care - make sure your heating system works well *before* you need it. Test it out for proper combustion, gas leaks, and other check areas. Make sure your thermostat is not rusted from the humidity. Think of what can happen to a heater or heating system, and you know it has happened to someone. Don't wait for a cold spell to find out your heater needs adjusting.

Most Cymbidiums show their spikes September-October-November and into December. How do you tell if they are spikes? Generally, the spikes are more pencil-shaped than a growth. The best test is to gently squeeze the tip if the spike is high enough to get two fingers over it. If there is "give," it is a spike; if it is firmly packed, it is a growth. As the

spikes come up and before your Cymbidiums flower, it is good to spray them with a good fungicide-bactericide to cut down an leaf tip die-back, black fungus on the bulbs, and other similar conditions. We use Consan 20 at the rate of one ounce to eight gallons of water. This gives 200 parts per million. Wet the foliage and plants well with it. You can even water it in.

Sheaths on Cattleya plants will frequently turn brown or black at this time of year. In the main this is perfectly normal and is no cause for alarm. If they do brown off, they may either be cut close to the axil of the leaf or, if buds are coming up, cut off the tip so air can get down in. Sometimes, too, a little "v" at the base of the brown sheath helps to let the condensation moisture drain off helps.

Go easy on the watering of practically all plants through fall, winter and into early spring. Make sure they are dry and cut down on the overhead spraying or even cut it out entirely. Change is a part of everything. This is especially true with orchids for we must change our culture as the seasons change. Learn the basics of culture, and your efforts will be rewarded many times over in fine plants and flowers. Learn, too, that with orchids the cause or effect of good or bad culture is not always immediate. A good general rule is what you may have done wrong may take several months to show up and a year or two to correct. Once you learn the basics, however, the rest is easy. Do not be guilty of that common but serious mistake of accepting new procedures or materials without thorough trial. The cases are legion of materials, mixes and procedures which didn't work-but which looked good at first.

Originally printed in Orchid digest, October 1966 and reprinted in the October 2007 issue of the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Newsletter. Reproduced here with a few editorial changes.



Raising Healthy Orchids

Healthy orchids are the result of a carefully planned culture regimen in which the plants are observed on a regular basis and grown in a clean environment. Many ailments can be quickly detected and dealt with before they affect other specimens in a collection. A few minutes spent each week checking plants is the best prescription for a clean bill of health.

An effective program begins with the purchase of vigorous orchids. Invest in specimens bearing green leaves devoid of black or yellow marks. The plants should be securely rooted in a mix that is firm, not mushy and acrid.

Isolate new purchases for two weeks before adding them to a collection to prevent any insects or diseases from infecting other orchids. If any ill effects are noticed, take the plant back to the seller and ask for advice, or request a replacement.

Maintain a spotless growing area. Remove faded flowers and dead leaves promptly. Water early enough in the day so the plants and flowers dry by night. Do not let puddles of water accumulate. Operate fans or open windows (during warm weather) to provide adequate ventilation. Fertilize enough, but not too much, or weak growth, which is susceptible to insects and diseases, will result.

When an infection is noticed, act swiftly. Identify the culprit. Take the plant (or a sample leaf or flower) to an orchid society meeting, the nursery where the plant was purchased or a county cooperative extension service. Wrap the sick specimen in a plastic bag to prevent it from infecting plants at the destination. However, do not leave it in an unvented car in the summer, or an unheated car in the winter, or additional injury may result. The ailment will most likely be one of four basic kinds.

Insects

Aphids, scale, mealybugs, thrips and spider mites are a few of the insects that attack orchids. The first three are easily seen; the last pair require the aid of a magnifying lens. Talk with local orchid growers to learn how to identify these insects and their symptoms. New growth and buds are common attack points. Understand the insects' life cycles and apply repeated doses of a control to eliminate all phases. Soft, cottony mealybugs on this new paphiopedilum growth will deform the leaves. Prompt action is necessary to eliminate the insects.

Diseases

Fungi and bacteria injure orchids. A warm and humid environment with inadequate ventilation creates the perfect atmosphere in which fungi and bacteria thrive, causing soft spots, sunken areas on leaves, root rot and other ailments. Inadequate air circulation and damp conditions can induce Botrytis cinera, which ruins flowers with its fine speckling.

Viruses

Orchids are prone to viruses that can cause flowers to be abnormal. Typical symptoms are streaking of color and deformity of flowers, and irregular light and dark streaks in leaves. When uncertain if a virus is to blame, consult a professional. Businesses exist that will test orchids for the presence or absence of virus. Destroy virus-infected plants; viruses can infect other orchids and cause harm.

Viruses are spread by animal insect vectors, and by improper hygiene, such as ineffective sterilization techniques on recycled pots and clips, and cutting tools. When severing a flower cluster or dividing orchids, always sterilize the cutting tool by passing the blade through a flame or dipping in alcohol. Use disposable gloves on each plant to be divided.

Physiological Disorders

An imbalance of water, light and temperature creates symptoms of problems. For example, overwatering can cause roots to rot, and, because the plant cannot absorb water, the pseudobulbs to shrivel. The effect is noticed on the pseudobulbs, but the cause is in the medium. Frequently, a change in the care program will solve physiological ailments.

Once an insect or disease problem is identified, choose an appropriate solution. Do not reach for the nearest available pesticide. Consider effective options that will not harm the environment. A cluster of aphids on a cattleya shoot can be carefully wiped off with a cloth soaked in sudsy warm water. Dab away mealybugs lodged in a bloom sheath with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Diatomaceous earth sprinkled on the medium discourages snails and slugs.

Occasionally it is necessary to rely on a chemical, especially when many plants are involved. Some growers plan regular spray programs to control insects and diseases. Houseplant insect sprays are handy to spot-check a single plant, especially in the home (but remove the plant from the growing area prior to spraying); more elaborate systems may be employed for larger operations.

Before spraying, be forewarned that some chemicals will damage flowers. The oil carrier (usually xylene) in emulsifiable pesticides can injure flowers or plants, often in conjunction with high temperatures.

Frequently repeated applications are necessary to eradicate all traces of an insect. Be prepared to spray two or three times at seven-to 10-day intervals.

Before applying any chemical:

- Write down the phone number of a physician or a local poison control center.
- Make sure no people or pets are in the area. Keep them away from the spray site for 24 hours.
- Move orchids grown indoors to a well-ventilated area.
- Read the label directions.
- Make sure the substance is recommended for orchids.
- Be certain the toxin is the right one for the job.
- Wear appropriate clothing to protect yourself.
- Know how to dispose of the unused toxin.
- Clean yourself thoroughly after applying any toxic substance.
- Clean the equipment and then store it beyond the reach of curious hands.
- Make sure the area has been replenished with fresh, clean air before family, friends and pets re-enter the area.

Some orchids benefit from being placed outdoors for the summer. Before their return indoors in the autumn, thoroughly inspect each specimen to prevent any unwanted guests from entering the growing area. Once indoors, populations of aphids, mealybugs, spider mites and other insects increase dramatically in the warm and moist environment. Inspect the container's sides, drain hole, developing buds and all of the foliage, especially the undersides of leaves, where insects often lurk.

Spend the time to understand how orchids grow during each season. Then should a problem arise, it can be dealt with effectively in a way that is safe for the plant, the owner and the environment.

For further information consider these popular handbooks produced by the AOS -- [*Your First Orchid*](#) and [*Growing Orchids*](#)

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Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting June 21, 2009

Recorder: Morganne Jerome

1. Call to order:

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm

Dave welcomed all members to the June meeting, including one guest.

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 to the September Meeting: Wendy Chaytor, Horst Hack, Ilsa Chaytor, Lilianne Foster.

Program

Kyle introduced Bill Thoms from Florida who gave a presentation on the subject of 'Bulbophyllums - Big, Beautiful, and Bizarre'. At the conclusion, Dave thanked Bill for his very interesting and entertaining presentation. Dave presented Bill with a MOS pin and will mail him a copy of the book 'Orchids of Manitoba' once copies are available.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion to accept minutes, as published, by Sandy Carroll, seconded by Darlene Moar, carried.

3. Financial report: Garnet Ward

Garnet presented the financial report (copies available).

Motion to accept the financial report as presented forwarded by Garnet Ward, seconded by Robert Kato, carried.

4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk

Sept: Jason Fisher from Orchids Ltd will be speaking (subject TBA). Jason will be bringing plants to sell.

Robert Parsons will send an email to members about order deadlines (for Appendix I and others).

Oct: Annual MOS Auction

Nov: Nothing booked so far. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or are willing to make a presentation, please contact Kyle.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Lorne Heshka

Lorne was absent, no report.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kevin Duerksen

Nothing to report.

7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

Nothing to report.

8. Library: Lilianne Foster

Nothing to report.

9. Public Relations: Vacant

Position still vacant.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

Gary was absent, Dave reported on his behalf.

141 members signed up so far.

101 active members

18 active family members

22 family members

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

Nothing to report.

12. Website: Robert Kato

Nothing to report.

13. Special Orders: Jim Roy

Jim was absent, nothing to report

14. Unfinished Business

Volunteers are still urgently needed to fill the Public Relations position on the Executive.

A volunteer for bringing the PA equipment to each General Meeting is also still urgently required (the person bringing the equipment to each General Meeting will not have to set it up).

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

15. New Business

Elections: Joyce Jaworski, past president and head of the nominating committee introduced Ed Maza who chaired the elections.

Dave Moran (currently president) was nominated and elected as President.

Kyle Lucyk (currently 1st Vice President) was nominated and elected as 1st Vice President.

Robert Kato (currently Web Manager) was nominated and elected as 2nd Vice President.

Garnet Ward (currently Treasurer) was nominated and elected as Treasurer.

Phyllis McCaskill was nominated and elected as Secretary.

There were no outside nominations this year.

16. Raffle draw:

Winners were Ed Maza, Neil Dunham, Ilsa Chaytor, Linda Andres, Arturo Alejandro, Garnet Ward, Joyce Jaworski, Lilianne Foster.

17. Show & Tell

Guest Speaker Bill Thoms described the plants, assisted by Kyle Lucyk and Dave Moran.

18. Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment - Robert Parsons

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