



# Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

**Next Meeting: 18 April 2010**  
**Salle Antoine Gaborieau**  
**Franco-Manitobain Cultural Centre,**  
**340 Provencher Blvd. (at Rue Des Meurons)**

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## **Novice Programme**

Swap & Shop

**Starts at 1:00PM**

## **Regular Programme**

Variations On A Theme: Heterogeneity

In Native Orchids

Presented by Lorne Heshka

**Starts at 2:00PM**

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

Plant sales by members are encouraged.

Goodies will be provided by Mike McIntyre, Darlene Moar, Joan Heshka

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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 22 April 2010 for May 2010 Issue**



I wish to thank the MOS executive, the Annual Show Organizers, and the volunteers, all good people who helped me liquidate all of my orchid collection. It gives a good feeling, knowing that these orchids are not going to waste but will be enjoyed by orchid enthusiasts.

I have a multitude of pots, vases and cache-pots to give away, you are welcomed to pick and choose; as much as you can carry.

Happy growing  
Ed Cormier



April 18: Novice Meeting: Swap & Shop  
General Meeting: Heterogeneity in Native Orchids

May 16: Topic TBA, but tentatively Joe Kunish of Bloomfield Orchids will be giving a talk and bringing plants for sale

June 20: Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited will speak on Phalaenopsis orchids and bringing plants for sale.

### Hearts & Flowers

The Manitoba Orchid Society extends get well wishes to Jerry Lenover for a speedy convalescence from his cancer treatment. We look forward to seeing you at meetings again soon, Jerry!

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

### 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.



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.

## **MOS 2010 Show & Sale “Orchid Paradise”**

Our 2010 show is now in the history books, and they will record it to be a success. This would not have been possible without the help of so many club members volunteering their time to help out in many capacities. I've been told 77 members (out of a total of slightly over 120) donated their time and/or made other contributions. Such participation is envied by almost all other orchid societies in Canada. As this goes to press, it looks as though we made a profit of about four thousand dollars. Perhaps best of all, our attendance was better than it has been for at least the last two or three years at about two thousand visitors. I hope to show a number of photos from the show in the next issue, as well as the list of major award winners and ribbon awards. Ideally all of these should have gone into this issue, but it would delay the publication and it's already later than I like! I would be remiss, however, in not showing our AOS awarded plant, grown by Lorne Heshka, *Paphiopedilum* Frank Zettle 'Marinda' AM/AOS 81.



## **MOS Club Order from Orchids Limited**

Jason Fischer will be making a visit to Winnipeg for our June meeting and bringing plants to sell. Since the publication of the previous newsletter, some changes have taken place and this has evolved into a club order, contra to what you read then. They are still taking pre-orders, although the cut-off for ordering Appendix 1 plants has passed because of the necessity of paperwork for CITES regulations. This is mainly Paph & Phrag species and hybrids, as well as Peristeria elata, Renanthera imschootiana, Laelia jongheana & lobata, and Aerangis ellisii. May 28th is the probable cut-off for all others. (More exact details will be shared, as they become available.) Orchids Limited have a wide variety of orchids and members can order directly, either from their website <http://www.orchidweb.com/> or their toll free number 1-800-669-6006, or via e-mail to [orchids@orchidweb.com](mailto:orchids@orchidweb.com). Payment can be made directly to Jason at our meeting by cash, cheque or credit card. The MOS will cover the 10% fee charged by OL for the paperwork to bring orchids into Canada. Those wishing to pay by credit card can pre-pay their orders at Orchids Limited either on line (noting delivery to MOS meeting) or by calling their 1-800 number. Club members choosing this method of payment will only be charged for the value of the plants and the club will still pay the 10% fee for CITES paperwork.

Payment for the orchids not pre-ordered will be made directly to Jason at the meeting and not to the MOS.



### **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 Darlene Stack  
AOS/COC Rep Kevin Duerksen  
Library Lilianne Foster  
Newsletter Robert Parsons  
Webmaster Robert Kato

## Listen to your orchids - Part 1 *By Don Bednarczyk*

Orchids need the right amount of light and water and to be kept at the right temperature to flourish. But how do you know if that is what you are giving them? All three are interrelated and cannot be considered in isolation. So you do not get overwhelmed, we will consider one a month and then bring them together again at the end. I hope that you will, in the process, get some hints at listening to your orchids.

### **TEMPERATURE**

Temperature is the most often missed piece of the picture. Chemical reactions on average double their rate every 10 degrees Celsius that the temperature goes up. All plants and animals are just big bags of chemicals reacting away. You and I are so adapted to living at 37 C and we would be on the limits of life itself if our temperature was raised or lowered 10 C. Plants are a lot more adaptable, but you can only go so far from the conditions they have evolved to grow in. We are all familiar with warm, intermediate, and cool growing plants. And we can push it a bit. But I cannot grow most *Phalaenopsis* in my house because it is just too cold in the winter. Others cannot grow a *Masdevallia* because their home is just too warm. That basic limitation we are all used to.

But a lot of growers do not recognize that plants need a daily rise and fall of temperature to thrive. Why is that? Plants basically convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar by photosynthesis. They do that using a lot of enzymes that have evolved to work in a specific temperature range. That is what makes them warm, intermediate, and cool growers. But at the same time they are making sugar, they are using the energy stored in that sugar to make proteins, pigments and structures such as leaves, roots, and of course flowers. They use that sugar day and night. They can only capture energy from the sun during the day. But they use the energy day and night. So simply put, if they use more energy than they store during the day, they do not grow well.

So we need to slow down their metabolism at night by lowering the temperature. Usually a 5 to 10 degrees C drop works well. Remember, chemical reactions run slower at lower temperatures. I have tried to grow orchids at work where the temperature was 20 C, day and night. It was an exercise in futility. They kind of grew. They got weaker. They never flowered.

So how far can you push lowering the temperature at night? The answer is only so far. And to further complicate the matter, many of our epiphytic orchids do not actually produce sugar during much of the day. They have evolved a defense mechanism against drying out in the heat of the day. Their stomata, the pores that let carbon dioxide into their leaves, also let water escape. So they have evolved a metabolism allowing them to absorb energy from the sun while holding their stomata closed. Then as it cools off, the stomata open and carbon dioxide enters the leaf, and then sugar is produced. So they need a period of darkness warm enough to let sugar get produced. Many orchids from the tropics, where the heat lingers until late at night, have evolved this way. But even there, it is darn cool by morning. Most orchids from moist alpine areas, where it cools off as fast as the sun sets, did not evolve this way.

Part of your knowing how much and how fast to lower the temperature is knowing where the orchids came from in the first place. All orchids are not created equal. And hybrids, mixtures of genes from all over the place, come from nowhere. So what are you to do? If your plants are growing really slowly and the growths are long and thin, question if the nighttime temperature is too high. If the pseudobulbs are fat and hard, and there are little bits of honeydew on the growths in the morning, you probably have got it right.

And many orchids need a yearly temperature signal to tell them it is time to bloom. For some orchids the signal from changing light conditions is the strongest. Yet for others it is the signal from changing daily high and low temperatures that is the strongest. Some Phalaenopsis demand a cool night temperature for at least a month in the fall to set their buds. I know of people letting their Phalaenopsis sit at 12-13 C at night for several weeks in the fall. They reportedly seem to almost instantly bud up when returned to normal growing temperatures. Some Cattleyas need both a light and a temperature signal to set their buds. If your plants are growing well and getting plenty of light but just will not bloom, consider looking into missing yearly temperature changes that are the problem. For instance, in the summer my Cattleyas grow in a greenhouse that goes from about 18 C at night to about 27 C by day (and up to 34 C on a rare really hot day). And it may be midnight before the temperature drops below 22 C. The temperatures slowly come down in the late summer and early fall and they get moved into my light room in early to mid October. There the winter temperature is 15 C by night and 23 C by day with a more rapid fall in temperature at night. That is not a huge change, but combined with a shorter (12-13 hour) light period, it seems to do the trick. Then in mid May it is back to the greenhouse and the cycle continues.

Please remember that the temperatures given here are AIR temperatures. The temperature at the plant may be quite different than the temperature on a thermometer at the other end of the room. A plant sitting in sunlight will be a lot warmer than the room. Likewise, a plant sitting on a windowsill at night will be a lot cooler than the room. Feel the plants at different times of the day. Or, if you are technically inclined, get one of those infrared thermometers and measure actual leaf temperature. It is the differential in temperature at the plant that you must consider. Room temperature is only a guideline.

*Taken from Orchid Society of Nova Scotia February 2010 Newsletter and reproduced with a few editorial changes.*



## CRUISING FOR ORCHIDS

My name is Monica De Wit and I am a member of a number of orchid societies and am based near Edmonton, Alberta. Currently, I am working toward accreditation as a judge of the American Orchid Society (ok, I'm a third year student—a ways to go yet!). Most recently, I've been working on a project to combine my love of orchids and ...cruising!

My friend Lisa Stiksmas of Expedia Cruise Ship Centers (Abbotsford) and I have been planning a theme cruise; the specific itinerary we have selected is aboard the Coral Princess departing from Fort Lauderdale on January 14, 2011. The itinerary includes Aruba, Cartagena; Columbia, partial Panama Canal, Limon; Costa Rica and Ocho Rios; Jamaica and includes 10 days of cruising. We are planning orchid excursions in these areas as well. The exciting news is that Dr. Martin Motes and his wife Mary of Motes Orchids Florida have agreed to be our guest speakers on ship and will provide an orchid —short course. More details are to follow. We will be advertising this trip across Canada and elsewhere and your society members are some of the first to find out!

If you have any questions about cruising in general or about this itinerary specifically, please contact Lisa at 1-800-811-1733 (ask for Lisa), her cell at 1-604-309-2232 or via email at [lstiksmas@cruiseshipcenters.com](mailto:lstiksmas@cruiseshipcenters.com). – Monica De Wit.

## **Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting February 28, 2010**

*Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill*

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

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There were no guests or new members in attendance. There was no January executive meeting as there weren't enough members available to attend. Tuesday, March 09 is the date for the next executive meeting. A reminder that suggestion slips are available at all general meetings and should be signed prior to being submitted for follow up purposes. These slips may be submitted to any member of the executive. There will be no General Meeting in March because of the Orchid show.

Volunteers for April refreshments are Mike McIntyre, Darlene Moar, Joan Heshka,

Show chairman Robert Kato called upon show committee members for their reports.

Lorne Heshka advises that the seedling plant category has been taken out of the Show Book. Next year the Show Book categories will be revised. He asked how many individual displays will be in the show and for any others to let him know as soon as possible. The Show Book is on the M.O.S. website.

Dave Moran discussed some of the volunteering needs. Forms were available at the meeting and also on line. Volunteers will be called before the show. Denise Fortier handed out posters and bookmarks advertising the show. She also suggested using e-mails to send a poster, which is available on line. Joyce Jaworski is selling tickets for the banquet. The banquet will be at the Travel Lodge near Fermor and St. Anne's Road on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and the deadline for tickets is March 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be tables set up for the auction, and the guest speaker will be Doug Kennedy.

Gary Jaworski is looking after plant registration for the show on the web site. The Tuesday before the show is the deadline. It takes 5 minutes to register a plant and 5 seconds to remove it. (If you are uncertain about your plant, register it early).

Rob Parsons (for Kevin Duerksen) listed the vendors coming in. Ed Cormier will be selling his plants as well.

Colleen Paluch is looking after the hospitality room, food and the needs of the volunteers. Please let her know if you can help.

Lorne Heshka informed us that the judges will give talks during the show. The times and the topics will be posted during the show.

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

Motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting as published, moved by Phyllis McCaskill, seconded by Rob Kato, carried.

**3. Financial report: Garnet Ward**

Not much activity at this time. Moved by Garnet Ward to accept financial report as presented and seconded by Colleen Paluch. Carried.

**4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk**

Jason Fischer will speak on Phalaenopsis species in June and he will bring in plants for sale. If you wish to order any plants from him, the deadline is May 1.  
The April and May programs are not confirmed at this time.

**5. Show Chairperson Report: Robert Kato**

The web site will have the new version of the show poster on Monday.

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

Kevin was absent. Nothing to report.

**7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek**

Nothing to report.

**8. Library: Lilianne Foster**

Nothing to report.

**9. Public Relations:**

Position is vacant.

**10. Membership: Gary Jaworski**

We have 122 members.

**11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons**

Ever Spring Orchids will be having an Open House March 13 & 14. This may not get in the newsletter in time.

**12. Website: Robert Kato**

Nothing to report.

**13. Special Orders: Darlene Stack**

We will be ordering from Orchid Inn. A list is available from Rob Parsons or Darlene. We are close to a 25% discount if we get a few more orders. March 19 is the deadline. Cattleyas are available from Sunset Valley via Orchid Inn but we need to know as soon as possible.

**14. New Business:**

Jim Roy & Kyle Lucyk will be speaking at an Open House at St. Mary's Nursery on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**15. Raffle draw:**

Winners were Edna Tustin(2), Darlene Moar, Lisa Sawka, Mike McIntyre, Rob Kato, Lilianne Foster.

**16. Show & Tell**

Kyle Lucyk described the plants that were brought in.

**17. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Rob Parsons @ 3:26 p.m.

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