



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 12 December 2010
Salle Antoine Gaborieau
Franco-Manitobain Cultural Centre,
340 Provencher Blvd. (at Rue Des Meurons)
MOS Christmas Party
Starting time is 3:00 P.M.

Note this the second Sunday in December and starts an hour later than usual.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

There is no selling of plants or supplies at the Christmas Party.





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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 30 December 2010 for January 2011 Issue

<p>Christmas Party Potluck</p>	<p>Always a fun event, with lots of good cheer, a great array of prizes and the opportunity to sample the wonderful culinary skills of the membership.</p>
<p>Hearts & Flowers</p>	<p>Our wonderful Jerry Lenover passed away on November 22. Arrangements were made with home care etc. allowing Jerry to come home on Sunday. Unfortunately his stay at home was very short.</p> <p>Jerry and Caroline have been members of the Orchid Society for many years--in fact one of the earliest members. Jerry served as President and various other executive positions over the years. He was the number 1 auctioneer for our annual orchid auction as well as graciously doing the auction at our Christmas parties. Jerry not only took on the task of auctioneer seriously but he did his homework ahead of time to find many one liner jokes to entertain us as well.</p> <p>Jerry will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy to Caroline and the children. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Jerry's passion was growing orchids and the Manitoba orchid scene has a huge void without his presence.</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, Wendy Chaytor, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Dave & Elaine Moran and Darlene Stack for bringing flowering plants to the November Show & Tell.</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>

2010/2011 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

AOS 2011 Calendar Order

We will once again be ordering the American Orchid Society calendars. This year, the calendars are being sold in bulk boxes of 12 each, for the price of \$6 U.S. per calendar plus shipping. If I don't get orders totaling a multiple of 12, the calendars will be \$9.95 U.S. each plus shipping. If this sounds like an unbelievably low price - it is! I asked to make sure, and that is the price I was quoted, so I'm going with it. The dollar is pretty much at par now, so exchange really isn't an issue. If you haven't ordered before because you thought the price was too high, now is your chance! Even with the price they were other years, they were still very competitive with other calendars on the market, and it is the best orchid calendar out there. Not only is it cheap this year, it is an excellent calendar with high-quality photography and some cultural info for the plant of the month. It also helps to support the AOS, which we are a member of.

I got started late with this, so there is only a short window to order if we want the calendars to arrive anywhere near Christmas. I have set the deadline for the day of the MOS Christmas party, Dec. 12. This gives 3 weeks to get your orders in. Given the late date, the calendars will not be here before Christmas, but I will contact those who ordered when the calendars come in, and we can arrange to have you pick them up. I can also bring them to the January meeting, if you are not able to pick yours up before then. You can pay me directly when you pick yours up.

Contact Kevin Duerksen at kevind76@mts.net or 633-0314 to place your order.



Oncidium sotoanum (More on this "new" orchid on page 4.)

**Oncidium sotoanum ssp. papalosmum, by any other name...
or “What do you mean it’s not ornithorhynchum??”**

The AOS newsletter recently featured:

"Oncidium ornithorhynchum Kunth – a case of mistaken identity."

The taxonomists are at it again...!

The orchid horticultural world has many examples of plants that end up widespread in cultivation under one or more misnomers. This usually comes about because a species is described independently by two different taxonomists without knowledge of the other. Such is the case with *Cattleya tigrina*, known most commonly in cultivation under the newer name *Cattleya leopoldii* or *Cattleya guttata* var. *leopoldii*. However, once in a while, we find familiar species that are victims of completely mistaken identity.

So it appears is the case with that plant most of us have either grown or currently grow – *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*. This plant figures prominently in hybridizing in the *Oncidium* alliance with some 80 primary hybrids including the popular *Oncidium Twinkle* as well as provides the source of the fragrance in the chocolate-scented, ever popular, *Oncidium Sharry Baby*.

While it’s true that what we grow with the name *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* is from Mexico and Central America, pink and, to most people, wonderfully fragrant – it isn’t *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*. Jimenez and Hagsater, working in Central American Orchidaceae have determined that the taxon described as *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* is actually a South American species distributed from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, and synonymous with *Oncidium pyramidale* Lindl; a typically yellow and brown-flowered species. The pink-flowered species we all grow is formally undescribed. In *Lankesteriana* 9(3) (January 2010), they formally describe this species from Mexico and Central America as *Oncidium sotoanum* R. Jimenez & Hagsater and an additional subspecies *Oncidium sotoanum* ssp. *papalosmum* R. Jimenez, known only from the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, is described. The specific epithet (pronounced soe-toe-ANN-uhm) honors the recently deceased Miguel Angel Soto Arenas, respected around the world for his work in orchids of Mexico.

Taken from the April 2010 online newsletter of the Manhattan Orchid Society and reproduced here with a few editorial changes.

How to Repot Orchids

By Jon VanZile, About.com Guide

Repotting your orchids is one of the most important steps you can take for growing and blooming healthy plants. Ideally, you should repot *before* there's a problem—but don't do it too early! Repotting should be done in spring, just before the plants' growing season begins. And don't repot a blooming plant if you can help it! Done correctly, repotting shouldn't stress your plants, but set them up for a successful growing season and even better blooms. So, as you're repotting, just remember: cleanliness is key, orchids are tougher than you think, and remember to match your media to your moisture.

Difficulty: Average

Time Required: 10-15 minutes

Here's How:

1. **Assess the Situation. Do I really need to repot?** This is a key question. You need to repot if:

- The plant has clearly overgrown the pot, with exposed roots hanging over the edges of the pot.
- The plant has grown too top-heavy for the available pot and it keeps falling over.
- The potting media has disintegrated into mush, which can harbor deadly bacteria and fungus.

If any of these conditions are present, it's time to repot.

2. **Pick Your Pot.** There are many ways to grow an orchid. You can mount them on slabs of wood or tree fern, you can grow them in plastic or clay pots, you can grow them in hanging baskets, and some kinds you can simply hang from a wire in the air. Unless you have a greenhouse or conservatory, it's easiest to grow them in pots. Orchid pots have slitted sides to allow for good drainage. There are plastic net pots available, and I use them for very small orchids. However, in general, I prefer the heavy clay pots, which are heavy enough to stay upright and retain just a tiny bit of moisture.

3. **Pick Your Potting Mix.** Potting media is a controversial subject among orchid growers, and many dedicated growers insist on mixing up their own with ingredients like coconut husk, clay pellets, bark, tree fern, perlite, styrofoam, vermiculite, sphagnum moss and more. Whatever mix you use, these should be your guiding principles:

- Organic mixes decay faster. If you use pine fir bark (commonly available in most commercial mixes), it will decay within a year or so of adequate watering.
- Your mix must match your watering. If you water daily, choose a free draining mix that won't hold water.

4. **Gently take the plant from its old pot.** Remove your plant from its old pot as kindly as possible. Roots will often have adhered to the pot sides, and you might break a root or two. It probably won't kill the plant, but try not to. Once you've got the plant free, inspect the roots carefully. Cut away and dead and blackened roots with sterile snippers and gently, with your finger, remove any rotted potting media.

5. Divide the Plant if Necessary. Sympodial orchids, or those that grow from advancing pseudobulbs, can be divided at repotting. Keep at least three pseudobulbs on either side of your cut, and make sure there are healthy roots in both divisions. Cut the stem with sterilized snippers and plant each half individually. Some orchids with very small roots, such as oncidiums, can be teased apart into two individual clumps. Division of phalaenopsis is rarely possible unless the mother plant has produced plantlets on the stem of a flower (called a keiki).

6. Prepare the Pot. Drainage is essential. If you don't want to fill up the pot with expensive orchid potting media, you can add broken clay pots or even styrofoam packing peanuts to the bottom of the new pot.

7. Position the Plant. Orchids aren't like terrestrial plants: they aren't packed in dirt. To position your orchid, balance it on potting media gently so the top of the plant is level or slightly above the rim of the new pot. Gently fill in around the orchid with more potting media. I frequently rely on orchid clips to hold a newly potted in place until the roots grow enough to anchor it in place. If you don't have an orchid clip, that's OK, but be aware that the plant is not stable in its new home until new roots have grown.

8. Water Thoroughly. Your newly potted orchid will need some TLC for a while, until new roots begin to emerge and the plant goes into active growth. I have found that some orchids will fail to bloom the year after they are repotted. This is OK. Orchid growing forces patience, and oftentimes, the plant will be more vigorous than ever once it has become established in its new pot.



Do you have e-mail?

From time to time I send out special messages to the membership at large. They include, but are not limited to, sales events, items of interest or urgency to the members. They have one thing in common: they have come to late to be included in the previous newsletter, and may be out of date by the time the next one goes out.

As I say, I send them out to everyone I have an e-mail address for. It's likely, however, there are quite a few members who have e-mail, but which is unknown to me. If you have your e-mail address published in the membership list and/or receive the newsletter by e-mail, I have it. If not, and you would like to be added to my list, let me know by either e-mail (parsons8@mts.net) or phone 269-6388. Note I protect the confidentiality of all recipients by putting their addresses only on the bcc line. The only address visible to a recipient (besides his or her own) will be mine.

Rob Parsons

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting November 21, 2010

Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill

1. Call to order:

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The minutes from the September Executive meeting were approved and are available from the secretary, Phyllis McCaskill.

Suggestion slips are available at general meetings for all suggestions or concerns and should be signed for follow-up purposes and submitted to any executive member.

Joyce Jaworski introduced our guest speaker, Jean Ikeson who is from Windsor Greenhouses.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

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

3. Financial report: - Garnet Ward

Garnet went over the budget for 2010 - 2011 and moved to accept the report as presented. Seconded by Robert Kato, carried.

4. Programs: - Kyle Lucyk – Absent

The Christmas party pot luck supper is on December 12 with the meal at 3:00 p.m. The doors will open at 2:30 p.m. for setting up. We have a large number of orchids donated to the club by Roy and Eugenie Meakings that will be used as prizes at the Christmas party.

The January program will be announced as soon as possible.

5. Show Chairperson and Website Report: - Rob Kato

Due to a large increase in rent charged by Assiniboine Park and an increase in the cost of security we will be charging more for admission to the orchid show. Admission will be \$7.00 and \$6.00 for seniors and there will be a coupon for a reduced general admission available on line.

If anyone has pictures of orchids that they want published on the website, please send them to Rob.

6. AOS/COC Representative: - Kevin Duerksen

Kevin will take orders for the AOS calendar. The cost for the calendars is less than previous years and will depend upon the number of orders received.

7. Hospitality: - Eva Slavicek

A sign-up sheet for food for the Christmas party pot luck is available by contacting Eva.

8. Library: - Lilianne Foster – (absent)

Nothing to report.

9. Public Relations: - Position vacant, still looking for someone.

10. Membership: - Gary Jaworski

Gary reports the membership is 101

11. Newsletter: - Rob Parsons

We would appreciate getting e-mail addresses of any members who haven't yet given us same. This is necessary in order that we may notify members of any special notifications or changes that can't get published in the newsletter because of time constraints. These addresses are kept totally confidential and would not appear on the membership list unless approved by the member.

12. Special Orders: - Darlene Stack

Darlene will contact everyone wanting to order Orchid Whiz. We will wait until December in order to get the latest version. This cost is \$149.50 U.S. Updates cost approximately \$80.00 U.S.

13. Unfinished business:

In order to help reduce our deficit Dave informed the membership that the executive voted to increase the membership fees from \$20.00 to \$25.00 and for families from \$30.00 to \$35.00, effective September, 2011

14. New business:

None

15. Raffle draw:

Sheila Pilgrim; Harvey Keselman; Darlene Stack; Fernando Tan; Phyllis McCaskill; Arturo Alejandro; Denise Fortier.

16. Show & tell:

Jean Ikeson described and talked about the plants that were brought in.

17. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Darlene Stack at 4:45 p.m.

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