



Next Meeting: 17 January 2010

**Franco-Manitobain Cultural Centre,
340 Provencher Blvd. (at Rue Des Meurons)**

Note New Location!

Novice Programme

Dave Moran will discuss rooting of
rootless Paphs.

Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

Nobile-type Dendrobiums by Terry
Groszeibl of Forestview Gardens.

Starts at 2:00PM

No selling of plants by members at the January meeting.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell




Goodies will be provided by Darlene Stack, Fraser Cameron, Rob Parsons and Lilianne Foster.

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 21 January 2010 for February 2010 Issue

AOS Calendar Reminder	If you haven't got your calendar, contact Kevin Duerksen at kevind76@mts.net or 633-0314 and arrange to pick it up.
	<p>January 17th: General Meeting: Dendrobiums with Terry Groszeibl of Forestview Gardens. Terry will be bringing plants for sale.</p> <p>Novice Meeting: Re-rooting Paphiopedilums with Dave Moran.</p> <p>February 28th MOS General meeting. Note this is the 4th Sunday in February, a week later than usual.</p> <p>March 26, 27- & 28. MOS Show & Sale—Orchid Paradise.</p>
LIQUIDATION	<p>Due to ill health, Edmond Cormier is moving out of his house.</p> <p>For those interested in a house with attached greenhouse, lath-house, orchids, supplies, equipment and container growing trees, please inquire at 204 256-2600.</p>
Hearts & Flowers	If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Phyllis McCaskill and let her know.
	To Kevin Duerksen, Darlene Moar & Darlene Stack for bringing flowering plants to the December Show & Tell.
	<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>

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

Manitoba Orchid Society Show & Sale March 26th, 27th & 28th “Orchid Paradise”

Our show is fast approaching so mark your calendars and let the fun begin! 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.

Confirmed Show Vendors:

Orchids by Kimberly - Kimberly Pronyshyn

Winnipeg, MB

phone: (204) 632-6177

Web site: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/orchidsbykimberly/>

e-mail: bamboobaby@shaw.ca

Orchids in Our Tropics - Doug and Terry Kennedy

Gormley ON

Phone/Fax: (905) 727-3319

Web site: <http://www.orchidsinoutropics.com/>

Mike Gabrielson - Sherwood Park, A.B.

Phone: (780) 410-1571

e-mail: mikegab@telus.net

Ever Spring Orchids - [Winnipeg, MB](#)

Phone: (204) 338-2340

Web site: <http://www.everspringorchids.ca/>

e-mail: grking@shaw.ca

Paramount Orchids - Calgary, Alberta

Phone: (403) 686-7021

Fax: (403) 686-6270

e-mail: info@paramountorchids.com

web site: <http://www.paramountorchids.com/>

Marsh Hollow - Mario Ferussi

Fenwick ON

Phone: (905) 892-4187

Web site: <http://www.marshhollow.com/>

All vendors are accepting pre-orders of plants. All orders are to go directly through the vendors themselves. Some vendors give discounts on pre-orders. If you have questions, the best person to contact is **Kevin Duerksen** at kevind76@mts.net or 633-0314.

Editor's message:

Another year is upon us. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. With the New Year, come new opportunities. The January meeting will feature Terry Groszeibl of Forestview Gardens speaking on Nobile-type Dendrobiums. We've been fortunate to have Terry speak to us before and bring plants. I think all who saw them were very favourably impressed with the vigor of the plants he was selling. I couldn't help ordering a few and have this sneaking feeling I will return home with even more plants than I ordered! Because Terry will be bringing plants to sell, there is no selling of plants by members at the January meeting. Note the change of venue for our meetings.

Our show is coming up soon, probably faster than many members of the show committee are prepared for. I know Rob Kato and his assistants will put on a great event, as per usual. I hope to see the club maintain its excellent volunteer participation that makes so many other orchid societies envy us. So when you get a call, I hope you'll agree to take on a shift at the show. Mark March 26th through 28th on your calendars!



Pot. Hwa Yuan Gold
Photo by Howard Lasser

BLACK MAGIC - ORCHIDS ON THE DARK SIDE

"THE DEVIL HATH POWER TO ASSUME A PLEASING SHAPE."

Black orchids are sought after because of their mythical elusiveness. The Black Orchid was a famously recurring motif in the "Brenda Starr" comic strip, and Rex Stout's orchid fancying detective, Nero Wolfe, solves a murder because he is lured by the possibility of finding black orchids. Other stories and legends abound.

Black orchids are not, exactly, black. Orchids do not produce black pigments, instead relying on combinations of red and purple anthocyanins to darken their petals.

We here present four of these Gothic beauties with a warning: their magic can be a curse, condemning an unwary orchid lover to an eternally fruitless search for the perfect black. But perhaps if you're willing to sell your soul...



Names can be deceiving. This abomination does not stalk the dark forests of Transylvania, but the high cloud forests of Colombia. *Dracula* orchids are related to *Masdevallia*, but they can be distinguished by the inflated labellum in the centre. This structure resembles the gills of a mushroom; small fungus gnats are the presumed pollinators. (See photo) *Draculas* are difficult to keep alive, much less flower well, because they require cool temperatures and high humidity. Their sinister appearance always attracts attention, as the names given to other members of the genus attest: *D. vampira*, *D. nosferatu*, *D. diabolus*, *D. chimaera*. (Photo of *D. vampira* on pg. 7)

Left: close up of labellum of *Dracula vampira*. Note similarity to mushroom gills.

One of the darkest black orchids, this one is a freak of nature, born in the hybridizer's cauldron from Makuli x rothschildianum). A rare slipper orchid, it comes fiendishly close to being black. Flowers of this slipper orchid resemble *Paphiopedilum* St. Swithin, but are much blacker.



Right: *Paphiopedilum Astro Boy*

Photo credits: *Dracula roezli* and *Maxillaria schunkeana* © Eric Hunt; *Fredclarkiana After Dark* 'Feuerbach' © Fred Clarke



Discovered as recently as 1993 in the coastal rain forest of Brazil, this demonic miniature packs a wicked punch. The name of the genus describes the way the labellum is fused to the column, thereby

resembling a jawbone. Traditionally, the *Maxillarias* are a rather neglected group of orchids. In Victorian times, when jungle-collected orchids went up for auction labeled as 'misc.', you could bet your last guinea they would all be straggly, unimpressive *Maxillarias*. But *Max. schunkeana* may change all that. Wouldn't you love a tray of these at your next séance?



Suitable for a funeral, this plant is the current culmination of black orchid breeding from a master of the dark arts of the *Catasetinae*: Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, near San Diego—granted, an incongruous setting for the practice of black

magic. *Fredclarkiana* is an artificial genus, a grex created by the devilishly clever hybridization of *Mormodia* Painted Desert and *Catasetum* Donna Wise. Four selected cultivars of the majestic *F. After Dark* have received AOS First Class Certificates, the highest award bestowed by the American Orchid Society. This achievement confirms just how coveted truly black orchids still are.

Orchids Found Growing on Human Skulls

The above title actually appeared as a headline in an early European newspaper. Orchids have always fueled the imagination, probably since they were noticed by the first humans to have imaginations. This early news account tells of an Australian explorer who found an orchid plant growing on a human skull. Needless to say, the newspapers of the day were eager to spread the story and thus, contributed to one of many myths about these strange and beautiful plants. (For a myth about magical properties of orchids, see pg. 3.)



Taken from the October 2007 Kingston Orchid Society Newsletter.

Growing *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* Under Lights

By John Sullivan

My first encounter with *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* (then generally known by its synonym, *Dendrobium sophronites*), was through a photograph in Walter Richter's 1972 book, *Orchid Care*. Emerging from the plant like a bird from a nest, the flower appeared impossibly large in proportion to the plant. The remarkable size of the bloom, coupled with its stunning red color, made it irresistible to me. In October of 1981, I was fortunate enough to receive a division of this red beauty from Albert Tamashausky, who assured me that the plant was easy to grow under lights. His suggestions were to mist it each day but let it dry by nightfall (or lights out). The plant, with three or four growths and mounted on a piece of tree fern, was placed in a position of prominence close to the lights and was dutifully misted each morning. Under these conditions, the plant first grew a number of roots, then for two years added new growths at an increasing rate, and finally bloomed after three years in my basement "greenhouse."



***Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* 'Christopher John', AM-CCM/AOS (83, 82 pts.)** This brightly colored clone is named for the author's son.). Grower: John Sullivan
Photographer: Charles Marden Fitch

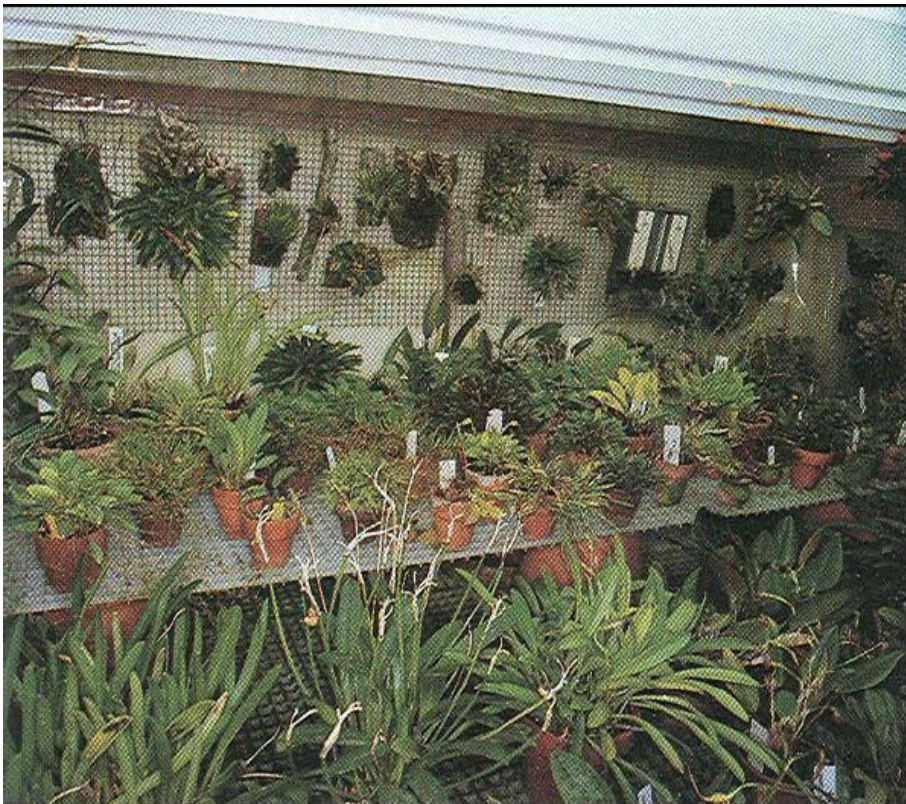
The aforementioned greenhouse is a room 14 feet square in a corner of my basement. Each outside wall has a window providing air circulation in the growing area. Four-foot-long benches accommodating fluorescent fixtures of the same length line the walls. The benches are stacked two (and sometimes three) high. Each one is lit by four 40-watt tubes, which run hours a day. The distance from the lights to the benches varies from 12 to 24 inches. Like

most light gardeners, I segregate plants by height, having "short," "medium," and "tall" benches. The center area of the room has one bench with an eight-foot VHO (very high output) fixture illuminating plants with higher light requirements such as oncidiums and laelias. Air circulation is maintained by one or two "muffin" fans mounted over each bench as well as by a 12-inch oscillating fan. An evaporative pad-type console humidifier, commonly available in department stores, provides humidity. The walls and ceilings are lined with clear polyethylene plastic to retain humidity. This liner also serves to protect the rest of the house from excessive humidity.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii is endemic to the cloud forests of Papua New Guinea. Andree Millar in *Orchids of Papua New Guinea* (1978) reports it growing above 2,000 meters in the misty and mossy forest, so I grow it with my masdevallias and other pleurothallids under cool temperatures. During the winter months, it is not difficult to maintain near-cloud forest conditions. Daytime temperatures run in the mid-60s, while the humidity is generally around 80-85% as measured by a wet bulb-dry bulb hygrometer.

At night, when the lights are off and the temperature drops, the humidity climbs much closer to 100% even with the humidifier not running. Nighttime temperatures of close to 50°F are achieved from October through April by carefully regulating how much the windows are opened. During prolonged cold spells, when outside temperatures dip close to zero, the windows remain closed at night. Summer is a more difficult time, the main problem being high temperatures. By moving warmer growing plants outside for the summer, I can turn off



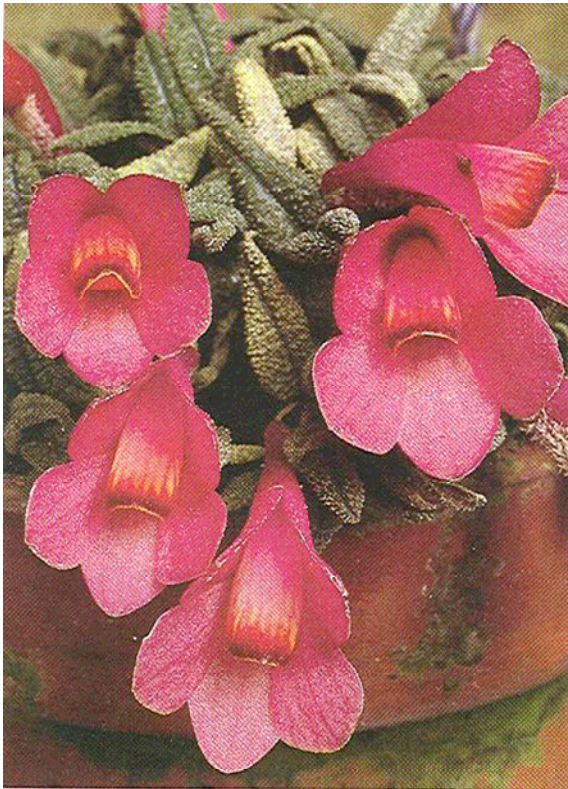
The author's indoor "greenhouse" in the basement of his home in Oakland, New Jersey.

some lights and cut down on internal heat produced by ballasts in the light fixtures. In addition, using setups with the much cooler solid-state fixtures in the cool-growing areas has helped keep summer daytime temperatures below 80°F, even on the hottest New Jersey days. During this time, there is not much of a temperature drop at night, but *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* seems to muddle through better than many of my masdevallias.

WATERING AND FEEDING

A hand-pump sprayer is used for watering. In attempting to duplicate cloud forest moisture, I set the sprayer for the finest mist possible. Every morning, the plants are misted heavily until the water runs off the leaves and into the pots. This watering style created a problem for me in that mineral deposits began to build up on the leaves. Using distilled water has remedied the problem, which exists only where the local water supply is high in minerals, particularly calcium. Feeding is done weekly with one-quarter strength 20-20-20 fertilizer.

Because *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* seems to be in active growth all year, constantly putting out new growths, new canes, or both, I do not give it a rest period. The feeding rate and schedule remain the same all year. The daily morning misting also is maintained throughout the year. Good air circulation provided by the fans generally dries the plant by late afternoon. Under lights, *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* flowers at various times, but usually in either fall or spring. The flowers last an astonishingly long time. Individual blooms remain on the plant from 9-10 months. Frequently, a new surge of buds is forming long before the last flowers have fallen.



Although they received their awards under the synonym of *Dendrobium sophronites*, these clones of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* show the color range of this beautiful miniature species from New Guinea. At left is 'Thomas', JC/AOS, and at right is 'Barbara', CCM/AOS (82 pts.). Both plants were grown by Lucian V. Tempera and photographed by Charles Marden Fitch.

POTTING AND DIVIDING

Adaptability has proved a strong trait for *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*. Divisions of the original plant have grown equally well for me, whether the plants were potted or mounted. When potted, it does best in a small clay pot with the bottom hole enlarged and crockery added to promote drainage. It has grown successfully in a variety of mixes from straight coarse tree fern to equal portions of tree fern, fir bark, and perlite. After being divided, it has established itself well in live sphagnum, which promotes good root growth. The plant has shown an affinity for both tree fern and cork slab mounts.

On the cork, a small pad of osmunda at the base of the plant helps it establish roots quickly. The key to success in repotting and reestablishing this plant is timing. Like most orchids, it adjusts to change best when it is least stressed. Fall and winter are the ideal times to divide and/or repot because they are followed by several months of cool temperatures to help promote good root growth before the summer heat. Divisions made in spring or summer are weaker and may be lost. The minimum size for a division is about three or four growths. Occasionally, when divisions are made, a few one- or two-growth pieces break off. Do not despair. Even with few or no roots, these divisions frequently will produce them if potted in live sphagnum for several months. Once roots develop, the plant can be mounted or potted in tree fern mix.

This species can be grown and flowered easily under lights if it is misted each morning and allowed to dry during the day with good air circulation. The humidity should be kept as high as possible and the temperature as cool as possible. I am eager to try some sibling crosses. Several color forms do exist, according to Millar, and the possibility of creating new ones is enticing. However, it is hard to imagine a flower that would be more pleasing in size or color than *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*.

Originally published in the American orchid Society Bulletin, December 1986 and taken from December Newsletter of the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society.



Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting December 13, 2009

Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill

1. Call to order:

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm. He reported that the minutes from the November, 2009 meeting have been approved and that they are available from the secretary – Phyllis McCaskill. Dave asked for volunteers to provide goodies for the January, 2010 meeting. Darlene Stack, Fraser Cameron, Rob Parsons and Lilianne Foster volunteered.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Joyce Jaworski moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, as published; seconded by Darlene Stack; carried.

3. Financial report: Garnet Ward

Garnet was absent, but provided a report. Dave moved the financial report be accepted. Darlene Stack seconded the motion, carried.

4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk

Kyle was absent, but sent a report stating Terry Groszeibl from Forestview Gardens would be the speaker for the January, 2019 meeting and that he will speak on Dendrobiums. He will be bringing the pre-ordered plants as well as other plants that may be bought.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Rob Kato

Rob was absent. No report.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kevin Duerksen

Brought pre-ordered MOS Calendars to be picked up.

7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

No report.

8. Library: Lilianne Foster

No report.

9. Public Relations:

Position is vacant.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

Gary reports that we now have 115 members.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

No report.

12. Website: Robert Kato

No report.

13. Special Orders: Darlene Stack

No report.

14. New Business:

The January 2010 general meeting will be held at the Franco Manitoba Society. Dave explained the facilities that we have been offered there. He is still waiting for a contract from them. We will try this facility for a six-month period to see if we are satisfied with this arrangement.

Diane Tolgyessy has volunteered to buy items for raffle draws.

The MOS budget for 2009 – 2010 was presented. Dave moved the budget be accepted. Jerry Lenover seconded the motion. Carried.

15. Show & Tell

Dave described the plants with help from those who had brought them.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Joyce Jaworski.

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