



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 11 December 2011
Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)
Conference Room

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\[at\]manitobaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:president[at]manitobaorchidsociety.ca)
Newsletter email: [newsletter\[at\]manitobaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:newsletter[at]manitobaorchidsociety.ca)
(Replace [at] with @ when e-mailing.)

Submission deadline 15 December 2011 for January 2012 Issue



December 11 Christmas Party potluck. One week earlier and one hour later than usual.

January 15 General Meeting Orchid Digest slide presentation, topic TBA

Momentary Vitality

A documentary
by Joel Penner
(in development)

Hi, I'm Joel and I am currently working towards making a very interesting movie focused on the beauty of flowers drying up. Basically, I put flowers on scanners and have them scanned a few times an hour in order to make time-lapse videos of the process. Right now I am trying to get as many different types of flowers as possible, and therefore would be interested in participating with anyone in the Manitoba Orchid Society. I'm interested in any type of flower people are willing to give. I usually just take a single cut flower from the plant at hand. I am also fine with paying for flowers. To see some examples of the project, go to www.momentaryvitality.ca.

Hearts & Flowers

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



To Leona Heshka, Joyce Jaworski and guest speaker Tandie McLeod for their donations to the monthly raffle.

To Arturo Alejandro, Wendy Chaytor, Neil Dunham, Ben Landry and Irene Landry for bringing flowering plants to the November 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.

2011/2012 Executive

Elected

- President Joyce Jaworski
- Past President Dave Moran
- 1st V.P. Kevin Duerksen
- 2nd V.P./Show Chair Rob Kato
- Treasurer Fraser Cameron
- Secretary Phyllis McCaskill

Appointed

- Membership Gary Jaworski
- Social Eva Slavicek
- Public Relations Wendy Chaytor
- Special Orders Darlene Stack
- AOS/COC Rep Kyle Lucyk
- Library Lilianne Foster
- Newsletter Robert Parsons
- Webmaster Robert Kato

Editor's Message

Robert Parsons

My best wishes to all of you for the approaching holiday season. I hope to see many of you at the Christmas party potluck on the 11th. If you are attending, please bring a food item for the potluck. Check with Eva Slavicek (667-6831), if you are uncertain of what to bring.

The Manitoba orchid scene has lost a few friends recently.

Former MOS member **Marianne Regehr** passed away on October 29th. She loved both orchids and African violets. Friends may donate to the Mennonite Central Committee or the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba in her memory, if they wish.

Former member **Nellie McLeod** passed away on October 26th. She loved gardening in general, with a wonderful rose garden, and won several awards for her orchids at MOS shows. Friends, who so wish, may donate to CancerCare Manitoba or the Manitoba Alzheimer Society in her memory.

Although never a member of the Manitoba Orchid Society, **Eugene Reimer** was known to many MOS members for his passion of conserving native orchids and their habitat, in particular the Brokenhead Wetland. Eugene passed away on November 5th. Friends may donate to the Eugene Reimer Environment Fund with The Winnipeg Foundation, the Eugene Reimer Scholarship for the Numerical Sciences or the Eugene Reimer Scholarship in Biological Sciences in his memory.

All three made the Manitoba orchid scene a richer place and will be missed.

Mentorship Program

On a happier note, the Manitoba Orchid Society is fortunate to have a number of members with a wealth of orchid knowledge. Four members, Lorne Heshka, Denise Fortier, Joyce Jaworski and Neil Dunham have agreed to act as mentors to newer members who have questions on general orchid culture. We are hoping to find one or two more to add to the list. While these members have a great deal of orchid knowledge between them, they cannot answer every question, but will certainly try to answer your orchid culture-related questions. I encourage anyone to phone or approach these members at the monthly meetings with your questions.



Manitoba Orchid Society Financial Problems and Solutions Part 2

I began with the November newsletter to make sure that you, the members of MOS, were aware of the deficits that we face, and that the first step in the reduction of the deficit is that as many members of the Society as possible receive their newsletter via e-mail. While a number of members have switched (thank you), we have not had the numbers that we had hoped for in order to make a significant decrease in newsletter expenses. I hope that those of you who still do not receive your newsletter by e-mail will give this matter your further consideration. If there is a particular problem that you have with the e-mail method, will you please let me know, and I will make every effort I can to see that you are accommodated.

I want to make you aware of some of the things that have been done to reduce our deficit, if you missed the November meeting, or were taking a short nap while the bean counter (me) was rolling out all those dry figures.

The first thing that we have done is produce a budget that provides for a deficit of approximately \$1500. This is about half of last year's deficit, but it is a plan, not something that is a fait accompli.

A motion was also passed in November, which stated that expenses that exceed by 10% the budget amount approved by the MOS members, must be approved by the executive. By this means we hope to curtail budget overruns.

A few items in that budget reflect a significant change in the way things are done:

- a) A big bouquet to Kevin Duerksen who is planning a bold program this year, which should result in an annual saving of about \$700.
- b) The raffle will now be conducted by Diane Tolgyessy. The plan is that the raffle will no longer run on a deficit basis, and will perhaps even generate a profit. A big thanks to Diane for taking responsibility for the raffle.
- c) Sales: We have discontinued the subsidies given to purchases made by the MOS on behalf of its members. Therefore ancillary costs such as shipping, handling, horticultural certificates etc. will now be added to the purchase price of all items ordered by members. As an example, if you order a plant from a nursery by way of a club order, your portion of shipping costs, phytosanitary or CITES certificates, exchange rates, would be added to the cost of the plant that you have ordered. In essence any cost incurred in the procurement of your order will be passed on. This change in procedure will add a small amount to your individual purchase, but it will save the MOS about \$200. Many thanks to Darlene Stack for gracefully assuming this extra work.

These are some of the changes that have been made in the last three months. There is still the cost of the show to look at, and I will be reporting to you on that next month.

Fraser Cameron
Treasurer MOS

The Cool Growing Laelias

By Paul Gripp

Many *Laelia* species thrive under cool conditions, and while they are outstanding in their own right they also offer interesting possibilities for hybridization.

In *Laelia*, that genus most closely related to *Cattleya*, there are many of the most beautiful and worthwhile flowers of the orchid family. While we are generally accustomed to associating *Laelias* with *Cattleya* type conditions, there are a number of Central and South America members of the genus that are perfectly suited for the cooler temperature winter night of *Cymbidiums* and other middle elevation orchids.

As we begin to look towards broadening our scope of plants that will grow under *Cymbidium* conditions, begin to face up to the energy crisis and realize the advantage of plants that can be cultivated at lower winter temperatures, we scan the orchid field to look for interesting fields of untapped potential. One can't help but notice these cool growing *Laelias* and see how they could be developed into an entire scope of plants equal in beauty to *Cattleyas* and *Cymbidiums*, yet tolerate more summer heat and winter cold than either. It is with these thoughts in mind that I provide the following information, not only on plants that are worthwhile as they are but also show great potential as a base for developing an entire new group of orchids, which at this point are very undeveloped.

While the genus *Laelia* is found from Mexico through Central America and all of the orchid growing countries of South America, the sources of the cool growing *Laelias* of my experience are from the highlands of Mexico and Guatemala and the mountains of south coastal Brazil. In Williams "Orchids of Mexico" he lists seven species of true *Laelia*.

All except one of these species, *Laelia rubescens*, seem to be very adapted for standard *Cymbidium* conditions, that is – moderate to warm extremes of day temperature and cool, tolerating at least a few degrees of frost, night temperature mediums. *Laelia anceps* is perhaps the most basic of this type, being one of the easiest and most reliable of all orchids to grow. It flourishes well under *Cymbidium* or *Cattleya* conditions. Temperatures from 90° - to 100° F., provided that it has some moisture, holds little problem with *Laelia anceps*. It must surely be one of the most hardy of evergreen orchids, as I have a plant of *Laelia anceps*, which withstood 22°F. in bloom on the coldest we nights have ever experienced since we have lived in Santa Barbara. The plant was growing completely exposed to the sky and took at least eight hours of subfreezing conditions.

"Sander's Orchid Guide, 1927 Edition" lists about 25 famous forms of *Laelia anceps*. It occurs most commonly as lavender but is known in white forms (*Bulls* var.), white with colored lip (var. *Sanderiana*), splashed petal forms (var. *lineata*), and many other super forms sometimes rarely seen including; var. *Chamberlainiana*, var. *Williamsianum*, and var. *Oaxaquena*. The usual flowering time for *Laelia anceps* is in the winter, around Christmas time.



Laelia anceps var. *Hillii*



Laelia Gouldiana



Laelia speciosa



Laelia Canariensis 'Golden Glow' HCC AOS

Of the Mexican Laelias, *Laelia anceps* has been used by far the most in breeding, both in its white and lavender forms. Sanders' List of Hybrids contains about 75 different hybrids registered over the years with *Laelia anceps*. I know of no one who has assembled a great number of these, but certainly a lath house with a large assembly of this type of plants would be a showy sight. Some of the more famous *anceps* hybrids include *Laelia Ancibarina* (*anceps* X *cinnabarina*), *Laelia Canariensis* (X *harpophylla*), *Laelia Amoena* (X *pumila*), Lc. Kahilikea (X C. Robert Stone), Sl. Camargo (X *Sophrontis grandiflora*), Bl. Sea Urchin (X *Brassavola glauca*), Lc. Clar Hancock (X C. Ethel Merman), and many others.

Two others of the most basic Mexican Laelias are *Laelia autumnalis* and *Laelia Gouldiana*, which are quite similar in habit. They both bloom earlier than *Laelia anceps*, with the blooming season ranging from September to November. *Laelia autumnalis* occurs customarily in light lavender tones although white forms are known. It customarily throws four to eight flowers although I have seen as many as sixteen on my largest well-grown specimen. The flowers have a very pungent aroma, particularly in the heat of the morning sun. While used less than *Laelia anceps*, *Laelia autumnalis* has given rise to some cool growing hybrids.

Laelia gouldiana, a plant with interesting history to its rediscovery, is one of the brightest gems of Mexican flora. Like *Laelia autumnalis*, it has a multiple flower spike with six to eight flowers. Its most exciting feature is its very vibrant color, much richer than even the brighter forms of *anceps* or *autumnalis*. It has been used occasionally in breeding but its good qualities need to be further used and incorporated into hybrids of the future.

Laelia albida is a small, 1"-1½", flower borne eight to twelve on a two foot spike. Quite a dainty flower, it seems to grow well mounted or in a pot. Some *Laelia albida* hybrids have been made, such as LC Bowri-albida (c. *bowringiana* X *albida*) and LC Chat (X C. *bicolor*), both of which proved to be particularly dainty types. *Laelia albida* customarily blooms in California in the fall.

One of the most exciting Laelias is *Laelia superbiens*, a plant that hovers between the genera *Laelia* and *Schomburgkia*. It has tall pseudobulbs, to 18", with a spike of four or five feet and a great mass of flowers on the end, ten or even up to twenty, lavender in color, a big, impressive plant. A fall to early spring bloomer, this plant has been used very little in hybridizing.

One of the grandest of the Mexican Laelias is *Laelia speciosa*, sometimes known as *grandiflora* or *majalis*. It blooms in May and June, hence its name Flor de Mayo. It has large, shapely, solitary flowers up to six inches across borne on roundish, golf ball size pseudo bulbs. This plant requires a long resting period from October to March in order to flower well. It comes in the more common lavender colors but also is known in white and white with a colored lip.

Laelia furfuracea, another of the fall blooming Mexican Laelias, is closely related to *Laelia autumnalis* but has fewer flowers and is a smaller plant. In building up a *Laelia* collection, this plant is useful in extending your season as it blooms in early autumn.

Of the Brazilian Laelias one of the most useful for temperate type culture is *Laelia pumila*, a truly beautiful dwarf plant standing no more than six inches high to the tip of the tallest leaf, and frequently shorter, with large-usually solitary three inch blooms. While this flower comes from the 2000-3000 ft. level of the coastal mountains of southern Brazil, it has proven to be a very good outdoor grower in California. It is customarily found in the lavender form but is also found in white, white with colored lip, and blue forms although these latter varieties are quite rare.

Laelia pumila was used quite frequently in breeding with Cattleyas in the early days, but primary hybrids with Cattleyas now are uncommon and few have been tested for cool cultivation. The only two crosses that this author has observed in recent years have been the remakes of two old crosses, Sl. Orpetti where *pumila* was crossed with *Sophranitis grandiflora*, making a very hardy and brightly colored cross, and *Laelia Amoena* where *Laelia pumila* var. *Coerulea* was crossed with *Laelia anceps* var. *Veitchiana*, the blue form, to produce very hardy offspring.

Laelia purpurata, the most Cattleya-like of all Laelias, is also a worthwhile specimen for cool growing. Its strong, sturdy, unifoliate plant and large Cattleya-like bloom with three to five flowers on a stem make a nice specimen, either in a pot or for mounting. The fact that it might hover a little closer to the marginal area than any of the other hardy Laelias probably accounts for the fact that many of its hybrids, the classic Laeliocattleyas, are more for warm growing, normal Cattleya conditions, in contrast to the more cold tolerant types. Also, the Laeliocattleyas have been fed back into the Cattleyas many times, so they are fairly removed from the primary hybrids of *Laelia purpurata*. Over the years many crosses were made with *Laelia purpurata* into the Cattleyas but these primary hybrids are no longer commonly found, whereas a few years ago they were quite common. It is too bad that we do not have some of these varieties to try to develop into cool growing types. Only a few, such as Blc. Veitchii and Lc. Schilleriana - two very good outdoor growers - are still on hand. However, just a collection of the various types of *Laelia purpurata*, which in its most common form is whitish with a purple lip, but in more exotic forms which are yet available; such as var. *alba* Pleana - pure white, var. *carnea*- flesh color lip, var. *Workhouserii* - the blue lip, and still yet other forms, make this species an exciting group that should be encountered far more amongst Cymbidium growers.

There are a number of other Brazilian Laelias, some of which may have a potential for cool growing and all of which are useful in breeding with other cool types. These include *Laelia flava*, *L. cinnabarina*, *L. harpophylla*, *L. milleri*, and others of the rupicolous group. My experience is that *Laelia flava* was marginal for cooler temperatures, and I have not been able to find evidence of the other species being successful at the cooler temperatures. There are, however, two very successful hybrids, *Laelia Ancibarina* (*anceps* X *cinnabarina*) and *Laelia Canariensis* (*anceps* X *harpophylla*) which are among the finest of the orange and yellow types for outdoor cultivation.

While it is beyond my knowledge to give a complete story and history of cool growing Laelias, it is my hope that this article will encourage interest in this rather underdeveloped field so that in the future, perhaps ten or twenty years from now, a whole new group of plants - the cool growing Cattleya types - will have a prominent place in the orchid world.

Originally published in Orchid Advocate, Vol. 1 #5, September-October 1975, and taken from the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Newsletter October 200, with a few editorial corrections.

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting November 20, 2011

Recorder: Robert Parsons

1. Call to order:

Joyce Jaworski called the meeting to order at 2:06.

Kevin Duerksen introduced our guest speaker, Tandie McLeod from the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (located in the Muttart Conservatory), of Edmonton, AB, who spoke on the foundation's history, objectives and aims.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Rob Kato moved to accept the minutes of the October meeting, as published; seconded by Darlene Stack; carried.

3. Treasurer's report: Fraser Cameron

Fraser presented the financial report and moved its acceptance; seconded by Denise Fortier; carried. Fraser then presented the budget and moved its acceptance; seconded by Colleen Paluch; carried. Copies of both documents were available. The auction brought in \$894.00 of which \$332.00 went to the growers, for a net of \$562.00. Fraser then proposed a motion "moved that expenses that exceed by 10% the budgeted amounts approved by the society's membership must be approved by the executive." This was seconded by Ben Landry, and carried.

Fraser encouraged members to receive their newsletters by email as a cost saving measure.

4. Programs: Kevin Duerksen

December 11th is the Christmas party—2nd Sunday in December.

January is tentatively an "Orchid Digest" presentation.

February is planned to be an interactive session with a panel of "experts" to do some demonstrations.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Rob Kato

The next Show Committee meeting is December 6th.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kyle Lucyk

Kyle was absent. No report.

7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

Eva thanked all who brought goodies, and asked all to sign up for contributions to the Christmas Party potluck on the sheet provided.

8. Library: Lilianne Foster

Lilianne advised members can look up on the website what books are in the club library and request it for a meeting. She will always bring a few additional books. Also requested members to return any outstanding titles.

9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor

Wendy has submitted notices of our upcoming meetings to the Free Press, and some online community billboard sites, and requested any members who might know of additional sites to let her know.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

Gary advised our membership is at 104.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

Nothing to report.

12. Website: Robert Kato

Asked for input on the website. A suggestion was to make sure the show dates were put on it. Further suggestions regarding the website can be sent to Rob or Joyce

13. Special Orders: Darlene Stack

Nothing to report.

14. Unfinished business

Joyce asked people to return any unwanted ribbons and rosettes from past shows so they could be re-used. They are a fairly large expense for the club.

Joyce asked if there were people who were willing to donate plants and other orchid-related items to the monthly raffle.

15. New business

We are in need of someone to make arrangements for judging and judges for the show. No judges mean no show. Lorne Heshka has looked after this for many years and is stepping down. He is willing to advise his successor.

A motion was made by Fraser Cameron that we continue to charge \$7.00 for show admission; seconded by Ben Landry; carried.

The club is in need of mentors—people who are able to answer questions and concerns about orchid culture. Lorne Heshka, Denise Fortier, Joyce Jaworski & Neil Dunham agreed to give it a try. We are looking for one or two more volunteers.

16. Raffle draw:

Winners were: Diane Tolgyessy, Rachele Ginsberg, Neil Dunham, Irene Landry, Leah Paluch, Jennifer Ridge and Arturo Alejandro.

17. Show & Tell

Kevin Duerksen & Rob Parsons described the plants.

18. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Lilianne Foster.

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