



From the President
Dave Moran



20th
MANITOBA ORCHID SOCIETY
Annual Spring Orchid Show
Orchid Celebration

ASSINIBOINE PARK CONSERVATORY
 FRIDAY, MARCH 25 - SUNDAY, MARCH 27
 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Admission:
 Adult \$7.00
 65+ \$6.00
 under 14 Free

Orchid Plant Sale - Out of Province Vendors - Unusual and Rare Plants
 Cash or Debit Only - No Credit Cards Please

Get \$1.00 off admission!
 Visit Us Online At:
www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca
 and download your coupon!

Our 2011 Orchid Show, March 25th-27th, is just a few weeks away and the theme of the show is "Orchid Celebration". I am looking forward to seeing all the beautiful plants that will be displayed at the show. Sharing your orchids with others by displaying them at the show tells everyone how much orchids mean to you.

Remember to pre-register your plants. If you are not sure the plant will be in bloom pre-register it anyway, as it is so much easier to cancel an entry at last minute than to add one. Our society display is always outstanding with a large variety of beautiful orchids. Please bring all your flowering plants, registered or not, to contribute in making this display the best ever. Last year we needed to supplement our plants with purchases from vendors.

Another way to contribute to the success of the show is to volunteer your time in various areas. The benefits of volunteering are great. It is a

fantastic opportunity to learn more about orchids from the information sessions, talking to the vendors, long time MOS members & the AOS judges, including Terry Kennedy, Mario Ferussi, Peter & Inge Poot, all known to many of us from previous years, will be joined by Joyce Medcalf and student judge Monica de Wit.

The annual awards banquet will be held on Saturday March 26th at the Travelodge, 20 Alpine Avenue. The meal is \$31.00 or \$33.00 per person for Chicken Wellington or Prime Rib Roast, respectively. Our guest speaker is Doug Kennedy, co-owner of Orchids In Our Tropics. There will be an auction at the dinner with a large number of plants and orchid related items. It is a fun evening and I encourage all members to attend. Please contact Joyce Jaworski prior to March 18th at 253-4160 and let her know if you are able to come, as well as your choice of menu.

Because the third Sunday in March is only a week before the show, note there is no March meeting.

Things to remember for the Show

- ✓ Bring ALL your blooming plants, those that do not go for judging will help to make a fuller and more attractive display for the public.
- ✓ Pre-register your plants – online if possible as this is the easiest way to import the information into the database.
- ✓ If you are not sure the plant will be ready for the show register it anyway as it is easier to delete an entry than add one in at the last minute.
- ✓ The trophies awarded last year need to be returned A.S.A.P. so that they can be prepared for this year's show awards banquet.
- ✓ Those coming in to set up individual displays can come anytime on Thursday.
- ✓ Those bringing registered and non-registered plants please try to have them at the Conservatory by 7:00 P.M. (earlier in the day if at all possible) to allow arrangers to create the best possible display.
- ✓ Experienced and artistic club members will be available to organize the display area and supervise but people with strong backs and long arms are needed to place the plants and, ideally, be trained to do displays in the future. (A great opportunity to pick up knowledge!)
- ✓ Get your volunteer forms in A.S.A.P.
- ✓ Some of the vendors may offer discounts on pre-orders so check it out.
- ✓ Thursday evening sales, after 6:00 P.M. are for VOLUNTEERS ONLY and are arranged directly with each vendor. (A GREAT reason to give a little time!)
- ✓ The banquet this year is at the Travelodge, 20 Alpine Avenue, and everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy the speaker, the awards presentation, the auction, the food and the good company. Please contact Joyce by March 18th, at 253-4160 to let her know if you are planning to attend.

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


Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 31 March 2011 for April 2011 Issue



Manitoba Orchid Society's 20th Annual Show & Sale "Orchid Celebration" March 25th-27th

Free to Good Home!	Horst has a surplus aquarium for anyone interested. It's 36" long x 19" high x 12" deep. Call him at 661-1934.
Bud Ewacha	Bud Ewacha, a long-time member of the Manitoba Orchid Society, passed away on February 16, 2010. Although Bud grew tropical orchids, his prime interest was native orchids, especially those found in our Province. On an amateur basis he studied native orchids extensively. He was particularly concerned with the conservation not only of these plants but of the environment in which they were found. Bud was a co-founder of the <i>Manitoba Native Orchid Conservation Inc.</i> , a group dedicated to the preservation of Manitoba's native orchids and was instrumental in introducing many individuals to this fascinating group of plants. More recently he formed <i>Conserve Native Plant Society Inc.</i> which not only included native orchids but also other wildflowers of Manitoba. The conservation groups Bud founded have for many years entered a display in the Manitoba Orchid Society Annual Show.
Hearts & Flowers	If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Phyllis McCaskill and let her know.
	To Arturo Alejandro, Neil Dunham, Horst Hack, Lorne Heshka, Ben Landry, Kyle Lucyk, Dave & Elaine Moran and Darlene Stack for bringing flowering plants to the February Show and Tell.
Gardening Saturday	<p>The 4th Annual Gardening Saturday, hosted by the Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory, will take place on March 26th at the Canadian Mennonite University, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gardening Saturday is a one day tradeshow that is designed to showcase the diverse plants, gardening products and services that are available to Manitoba gardeners. This year's event will feature Keynote Speaker Des Kennedy, 19 educational gardening workshops presented by local gardening experts, Tradeshow Area with more than 65 exhibitors, and a delicious assortment of local food products in the Food Market. From rain barrels to beautiful blue hydrangeas, the latest flower bulbs, heritage seeds, and so much more, Gardening Saturday promises to inspire you!</p> <p>Admission to Tradeshow is only \$5. Workshop registration is \$10 and includes admission to Tradeshow. Contact 895-4560 or visit our website at www.friendsconservatory.com for more details or to register. We look forward to seeing you at Gardening Saturday!</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



2011 Manitoba Orchid Society Show & Sale “Orchid Celebration”

Confirmed vendors are listed below. There might be more by show time, and **Kevin Duerksen** at kevind76@shaw.ca or 633-0314 may have more info. Note all orders are directly through the vendors, as there is no club order, per se. All vendors are accepting pre-orders of plants. Some vendors give discounts on pre-orders, inquire when ordering.

Confirmed Show Vendors:

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: everspringorchids@gmail.com

Paramount Orchids - Calgary, Alberta
Phone: (403) 686-7021
Fax: (403) 686-6270
e-mail: info@paramountorchids.com
web site: <http://www.paramountorchids.com/>

Monica de Wit – Edmonton, Alberta
e-mail: monicadwt@gmail.com

Joyce Jaworski/Leona Heshka – Winnipeg, MB

Growing promenaeas

By Rex Johnson

Alan and Ada Kelly share their experiences of growing *Promenaeas* in Tasmania with Rex Johnson.



Prom. stapelioides 'Tinonee'.

We had a bit of spare room in our Sarcophilus house and Ken Russell suggested we try *Promenaeas* if we wanted something different to grow. When he visited us a couple of years later he was delighted with the success that he could see we were having.

Promenaea is a genus of about 14 species, which belongs to the sub-tribe *Zygopetalinae*. Because they grow in temperate rainforests of south-eastern Brazil they adapt very nicely to similar conditions that suit our Sarcs here in Tasmania.

These small plants have a cluster of pseudobulbs about 25mm long and with light green/greyish leaves about 25mm long. The leaves sometimes get quite a silvery texture on them and can appear to be affected by the predator red spider mite. Inflorescences are mostly single flowers. However, some hybrids will produce up to three flowers on the arching to pendulous racemes. Flowers do not vary much in size, ranging only between 40mm and 50mm across but they do open into very attractive blooms of yellow to cream and often marked more or less with red/maroon bars or blotches. Some hybrids now have beautiful dark velvet textured lips. In early 1988, we purchased a few of these little plants and duly placed them where Ken suggested. When he was back in Tasmania for the Australian Orchid Council Conference at Burnie, he visited us again and his first words when he entered the Sarc house were: "Good heavens, you are growing those *promenaeas* good."



Specimen plants in 74mm and 80mm pots on weed mat over canunda shell on the western side of the orchid house. Photos: Rex Johnson.

Our Sarcophilus house is of timber construction, clad with reinforced polyfilm and old corrugated fibreglass on the roof. The fibreglass has now quite discoloured and has therefore reduced the light level by 25 per cent or more.

The Promenaeas are on the western side of the house where they get a little more light than the Sarcs. However, during the hottest part of the summer, when the temperatures get up to nearly 30 degrees, a piece of 50 per cent green shade cloth is pulled over the roof to keep the house cool.



Prom. (Crawshayana x rollissonii 'Carlyle') x Prom. xanthina.

Our plants have usually been purchased in 50mm tubes and we give them some time to acclimatize to our conditions before repotting.

When new growth is apparent and the weather is warm, the plants are moved into 75mm standard nursery pots. This size pot will last them about two years and is usually big enough for the plant to be a specimen.

So far, our largest plants are still only in 80mm pots and this year several have produced more than 50 flowers each, with one specimen having 150 flowers.

Pine bark is the basic ingredient of our mix. We use 5-10mm composted pine bark and mix about 25 per cent quartz chips with it. This gives us a free draining mix but with enough moisture retention to keep plenty of humidity around the root system and under the leaves.

For watering, we collect our own rainwater and mist the plants, usually in the afternoon, to keep them damp. They get a good watering about twice a week in summer while during winter only sufficient water to keep the mixture damp.

In Devonport, in Tasmania, we do not get very severe frosts although they are not uncommon.

Where we have the *Promenaeas* the temperature in summer varies between 10° and 30° and in the winter does not usually drop below 5°.

Because the orchid house is fully enclosed, natural air movement is minimal only when the door is left open so two, small electric fans operate continuously.

The fertilizer program for the *Promenaeas* is the same as the *Sarcochilus*. We alternate between two proprietary products, one with a nitrogen level of 12 and the other with a potassium level of 12. These are used at half the recommended strength, and applied once a fortnight in spring and early summer.

One of the main requirements of *Promenaeas*, like most of our orchids, is to keep them in a good humid environment. To achieve this, we place the pots on a bed of canunda shell that is covered with weed mat cloth.

The shells hold moisture when we water and the weed matting is very easy to keep clean. In fact, we often sweep it off with a small hearth broom to remove any dislodged bark or dead leaves.



Prom. (Samsu x stapelioides) showing two flowers on a two bulb plant.



Prom. (Samsu x stapelioides) showing two flowers on a two bulb plant.

There are not many *Promenaeas* listed in catalogues these days but if you grow *Sarcs* and have a little room keep looking and you will find some.

We find them easy to grow and because they flower after the *Sarcs*, they are a very rewarding and colourful orchid to have in your orchid collection.

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Editor's note:

The minutes of the February 2011 meeting will appear in the April newsletter.