



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 20 November 2011
Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)
General Meeting: Conference Room,
Novice Meeting: Room C09

Novice Programme

Tandie McLeod from the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation at the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton giving a Q&A on how the orchids at the Muttart Conservatory are grown.

Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

Tandie McLeod will speak on the OSPF - Its history and objectives.

Starts at 2:00PM

There will be no selling of plants by members at the November meeting.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

Goodies will be provided by Irene Landry, Debbie Robb, Joan Heshka, and Marina Yogendran.

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 24 November 2011 for December 2011 Issue



The Manitoba Orchid Society welcomes Ho Lam, Muoi Lam and Bevonnie Brown.



November 20: Tandie McLeod will speak at both the novice & general meetings. She will be providing a list of plants available for pre-orders (not yet received when the newsletter went to print) and may be bringing additional plants for general sale to members, thus there will be no selling of plants at the meeting by members.

December 11: Christmas Potluck

Looking for a few good hosts!

Are you willing to host a speaker for one of our meetings and/or a judge for our show? It is a great way to learn more about orchids and meet new people. The society will pay \$50 per night to help offset the costs of hosting. Please contact Kevin Duerksen at 633-0314 or kevind76@shaw.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 Fraser Cameron, Joan Heshka, Diane Tolgyessy, Dave Moran, Kyle Lucyk, Lorne Heshka, Joyce Jaworski & Rob Parsons for conducting our annual auction.



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

Manitoba Orchid Society Financial Problems and Solutions

By Fraser Cameron, Treasurer MOS

I hope by now you all are aware that we are running an annual deficit of nearly \$3,000.00.

I also hope as the Society's treasurer to eliminate that deficit, or at least make a serious dent in it.

The first step in reducing our costs can be the Newsletter. Last year the newsletter cost \$777.00 to operate. Included in that cost was the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter to 50 members. I realize that not everyone is on the Internet, however there are still a large number of members who have access to the Internet, but still have their newsletter sent to them by Government mail. If you are now receiving your Newsletter by mail and switch to email the society could save \$200.00 to \$300.00 a year or more.

Let me point out to you the reasons that you should change:

- 1) You reduce the society's costs for postage and stationery.
- 2) On email you get to see pictures of orchids in living colour, as opposed to the black and white in the mailed newsletter.
- 3) There will be less work for Gary (our Membership Chairman) in that he will have fewer newsletters to stuff into envelopes and mail every month.
- 4) You will become a conservationist, because you are using e-mail rather than hard copies, and therefore saving the trees.
- 5) By reducing expenses your treasurer will sleep better at night.
- 6) You reduce the clutter in your home, if you like saving old issues.
- 7) Last but NOT least, you can accomplish all these things AT NO COST TO YOU and it will make you feel that YOU can do something to help.

You can change to email by contacting Rob Parsons by e-mail at newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

or Gary Jaworski at membership@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

OR see either at the November Meeting.

I URGE you to make the change. I did.

Editor's note: This is part of a planned series of helping to get our financial house in order.

Collector's Item: *Catasetum pileatum* Rchb.f.

Pronunciation: Kat-ah-SEE-tum pee-lee-AH-tum (or pih-lee-AY-tum)

This spectacular *Catasetum* is widespread from the island of Trinidad, throughout the basins of the Negro and Orinoco Rivers in Brazil and Venezuela and into Colombia and Ecuador. The first plants introduced into England were collected in Venezuela and introduced into cultivation by Linden. The species was described by H. G. Reichenbach in 1882 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*.

Until 1921 this species was Venezuela's national flower. The Latin name refers to the adjective *pileatus* or "with a cap", in apparent reference to the hood over the broad lip formed by the carriage of the dorsal sepal and petals.

Catasetum pileatum is an impressive plant even out of flower. The fusiform (spindle-shaped) pseudobulbs grow about 16cm (about 6 inches) tall and the large leaves can reach 40cm (about 16 inches long) making typical plants nearly 60cm (2 feet) tall. Robust clones can be even bigger. *Catasetums* normally produce flowers of a single sex.



Ctsm. pileatum 'Riopelle', CCM/AOS
Grower: James Riopelle Portland, OR

The plants themselves are not constrained to one sex or the other as are some plants but any given inflorescence will usually carry flowers that are either male or female with male flowers more prevalent. Male inflorescences can reach 30cm (12 inches) long and carry up to 12 flowers reaching about 13cm (about 5 inches) across. Female inflorescences are typically shorter, fewer-flowered and the fleshy flowers are fewer in number. In some species in the *Catasetum* Alliance, the differences between male and

female flowers are so striking that early taxonomists mistook female forms for different species. Inflorescences in this species are produced from near the base of the maturing pseudobulb typically in late summer or fall although plants are capable of flowering about any time. Mature pseudobulbs on well-grown plants may produce several inflorescences at once or spread out over a fairly long period of time.



Ctsm. pileatum 'Imperial', AM/AOS
Grower: Martin J. Nathan, MD
Los Angeles, CA

Male *Catasetum* flowers have a specialized trigger mechanism clearly visible in the center of this flower. *Catasetums* belong to a group of orchids pollinated by male Euglossine bees (sometimes called "orchid bees"). These bees are attracted to the powerful fragrances produced by these flowers and will swarm in large numbers. When a visiting bee accidentally trips the trigger, the pollinia are forcefully ejected from the anther cap and adhere to the bee's body. The tension in these triggers is substantial and pollinia can be thrown several inches (reportedly up to 6 feet if no obstacles are encountered) from the plant and at a speed measured in excess of 10 ft/second. The force involved in the impact appears to serve two purposes; first to cause the sticky pad to adhere firmly to the insect and second to get the insect to go to another flower.



Ctsm. pileatum
'Kay Rinaman', CBM/AOS
A rare yellow form
Grower: James Riopelle Portland, OR

Catasetum pileatum is a lowland species where it occurs as an epiphyte. The species is adapted to hot, humid rainforest with only a short dry winter season and this is one species that may not go completely dormant for any period of time. Temperatures range from a maximum of 30C (86F) to a minimum of 15C (59F) and humidity is high at night even in the dry season. While actively growing, plants should be given as much water, warmth and humidity they will tolerate without damage to the foliage and ample fertilizer. These plants are heavy feeders and the goal is to produce the largest pseudobulbs as possible by the onset of late summer. After flowering and when leaves fall, the plants should be kept dry with high humidity and warm temperatures until the newly developing growths have roots about an inch long. With *Ctsm. pileatum*, this time interval can be quite short and successful growers provide a winter rest only if the plant's appearance indicates a need for dormancy.

Plants are best grown potted. Some successful growers use straight sphagnum moss in clay pots top-dressed with time-release fertilizer (in low-humidity climates plastic pots will retain moisture longer). Others recommend bark or treefern based potting mix. Regardless of the mix chosen, it must hold adequate moisture, drain rapidly so excess moisture isn't a problem and aerate the roots.

Ron McHatton, August 2009 Article provided by the AOS

Taken from the October 2010 issue of Orchiflora Volume 1, Issue 2, the newsletter of the Vancouver Orchid Society



AOS Calendars

We will likely be ordering calendars from the American Orchid Society as we usually do each year. The price is still uncertain, but they are typically around \$12.00. If you are interested, please contact Kyle Lucyk at kylelucyk@gmail.com.

Miniature Orchids; Small but Beautiful

Rob Bock reminds us that orchids do not need to be large to be beautiful

The orchid family, Orchidaceae, is probably the largest family of flowering plants in the world, with between 25,000 and 30,000 species and at least 100,000 formally registered hybrids. It is therefore not at all surprising that orchid-fanciers, who collect these wonderful plants, all too soon run out of space in their greenhouses or on their windowsills. A contributing factor to this problem is that the more successful the collector is, the sooner he will reach the limits of the available space. Orchid fanciers with a large greenhouse in the garden will get their turn later than growers with only a small hothouse or those who keep their orchids indoors on the windowsill.



Above: *Sophronitis coccinea*

Fortunately, the large orchid family itself provides the solution to this problem. The various species differ in size from giants more than one metre high to miniatures that can only be seen with a magnifying glass. Of course, tastes differ and not everybody appreciates dwarf plants, but there are incredibly beautiful ones among them, if only one takes the time and trouble to pay attention to these little jewels.

Many orchid-lovers, like myself, live in apartments in big cities and know that their choice of orchids is limited to species that can be grown on windowsills or in a small hothouse on the balcony - until they discover the miniatures! For these plants, a small balcony greenhouse or a 'plantarium' in the living room offer new opportunities. I have a friend who keeps more than 100 orchids in his apartment in the heart of the city. His tallest plant is perhaps 10cm high, his smallest only a few millimetres.

Modern equipment enables accurate control of lighting, heating and humidity. A tiny electric fan, hidden somewhere in a corner of the glass case, takes care of air circulation round the plants and keeps the windows free of condensation. With today's installations, climate control can be perfectly regulated and the costs of installation and running it are not excessive.

Some time ago, I saw three large glass cases (plantariums) next to one another, on a long table at one side of the living room of a true orchid lover. One case had a warm and humid climate inside, the second a moderate one and the third a cool climate. A large tree-trunk, cut in three sections, was placed in the three cases and looked as if it ran uninterrupted through the glass separating the cases. In all three cases only the front window was kept free of condensation by hidden ventilators removed from rejected computers. The trunk was covered with living moss and a large number of epiphytic miniature orchids. The backs of the cases, too, were covered with plants growing on a base of cork. The bottoms of the cases were filled with treated bark that covered and hid the pots of yet another few orchid plants.



Above: *Lepanthes calodictyon*

The owner told me that he intended to install a small waterfall in one of the glass cases to add to the exotic tropical effect that he had created. I asked him if he would not like also to include a few dwarf ferns, but he replied that ferns consume so much nutrient that they harm the orchids. 'It is not good to have ferns growing together with your orchids, even though I agree that it can look very attractive,' was his advice to me.

Collectors, whose aim it is to have as many different species as possible, often hang their plants in long rows from wires that run from one side of a greenhouse to the other at different heights. The plants are usually on cork or pieces of tree-fern trunk. I do not find this an attractive way of keeping one's plants, but you do get a large number in a small space, particularly if they are miniatures.

The joy of collecting, the vast knowledge of plants, the multitude of good pictures in books, the enormous choice of plants at specialized nurseries, the fantastically beautiful orchid shows, have all contributed to the increased interest in miniature orchids among collectors. Sometimes I get the impression that the large, showy cattleyas and cymbidiums are out of fashion and that the tiny jewels are 'in'. Full of pride, growers today display plants that you can hold in the palm of your hand. At a recent show, I saw a jury consisting of three tall men and two sturdy ladies judging a tiny flowering orchid. They sat around a table and the plant, in a three-centimetre pot, looked lost on the middle of the table. All six, jury members and plant, were fully grown adults!

Many orchid nurseries offer a large assortment of miniature orchid species, ranging in height from a few millimetres to perhaps 10cm. Bigger than that, I do not consider that orchids qualify as miniatures. These dwarf plants have all the features and qualities that make an orchid so special, only on a smaller and more modest scale. Colour, scent and shape are as remarkable and as beautiful as with their bigger brothers.

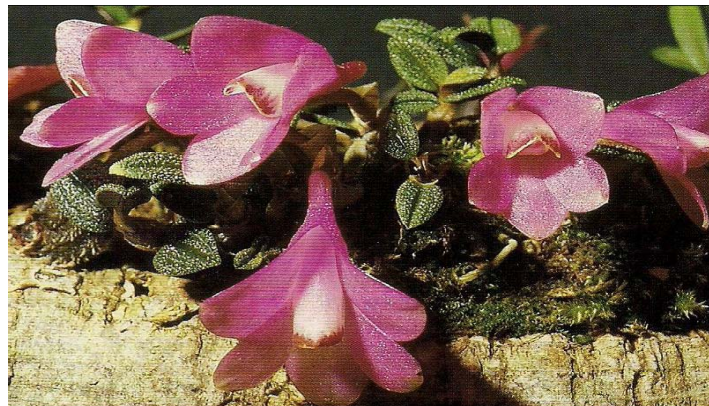
Some miniatures produce big flowers. *Sophranites coccinea*, a jewel from southeast Brazil, is a plant 8-10cm tall, but it produces bright red flowers 6-8cm in diameter. Others are less showy *Phymatidium delicatum*, also from Brazil, is a minute plant that is hardly bigger than a finger nail - leaves, roots, flowers and all. For some species of miniatures it helps to use a magnifying glass in order to admire the unexpected beauty I have noticed that, more and more often, I see one among the greenhouse tools.

The choice of miniature orchids is enormous and so is the joy these jewel-like dwarfs offer their caring owners.



Above: *Maxillaria juergensis* from Brazil

Below: *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* from New Guinea



Above: *Ceratochilus biglandulosus* , the only known member of the genus, is a miniature orchid from the high mountains of Java and Sumatra.

Originally published in The orchid Review, September – October 2004 and taken from the February 2011 issue of the Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society.

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting October 16th, 2011

Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill

1. Call to Order:

Joyce Jaworski called a short meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Joyce welcomed 3 new members: Ho Lam, Muoi Lam and Bevonnie Brown.

Volunteers to bring goodies for the November general meeting are: Irene Landry, Debbie Robb, Joan Heshka, and Marina Yogendran.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting by Ben Landry, seconded by Jacques Cahill; - carried.

3. Financial report: - Fraser Cameron

Fraser presented the latest financial report and made a motion to accept this report as presented. Seconded by Rob Parsons; carried. Fraser asked the membership to consider receiving their M.O.S. newsletter via e-mail as a cost saving measure as well as to save some trees.

4. Programs: - Kevin Duerksen – absent

Kevin was absent but he sent a note with respect to the November program. Tandie McLeod will be speaking and is bringing plants that will be offered for sale. Kevin is working on the November novice meeting.

5. Show Chair – Rob Kato

No report.

6. AOS/COC Representative: -Kyle Lucyk

Kyle asked the membership if anyone was interested in purchasing the A.O.S. calendar. The price of the calendar is \$12.00. Anyone that is interested can contact Kyle.

7. Hospitality: - Eva Slavicek –

Eva thanked everyone who brings in goodies for our break.

8. Library: - Lilianne Foster

No report.

9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor – Absent

Wendy sent a message that she has met with Denise Fortier and will be starting on publicity soon.

10. Membership: - Gary Jaworski

No report.

11. Newsletter: - Rob Parsons

No report.

12. New Business:

Joyce asked members for plant donations for the auction. We would also like to get plant donations for our raffles to save on costs. Members are to call Joyce if they are interested in donating plants. Members were asked if they have any ribbons from previous orchid shows and to not throw them out if they no longer want them as they can be refurbished and reused. The rosette ribbons are very expensive to buy.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Irene Landry at 1:25 p.m.

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