



## Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

**Next Meeting: 16 February 2014**  
**Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.**  
**(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)**  
**General Meeting: Conference Room**  
**Repotting workshop starts at 1:30**

**Note there will be no novice meeting and, therefore, the regular meeting is starting half an hour earlier than usual.**

**Plant sales by members are encouraged.**

**Bring Plants for Show & Tell.**

**Goodies will be provided by Judy Browne, Irene Landry, Joan Heshka and Debbie Robb.**

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

Executive email: [president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca)

Newsletter email: [newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca](mailto:newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca)

**Submission deadline 20 February 2014 for March 2014 Issue**



**February 16:** Repotting workshop. We will have volunteers to demonstrate techniques and help you with your plants; donations of potting materials are appreciated; bring your plants in need of repotting!

**March 21- 23:** MOS Show & Sale “A Rainbow of Color”

**April 20:** Gordon Heaps from Edmonton will be speaking on 'Mini-Cattleyas - ‘What makes a Mini and How to Grow Them’ at the general meeting, and he will be speaking on 'The Science of Watering Orchids' at the novice meeting.

**Ever Spring Orchids  
Open House  
February 8-9  
2868 Pipeline Road**

Reminder of Ever Spring’s open house. If there is sufficient interest, there will be a workshop or two scheduled on Sunday afternoon.

More details at: <http://www.everspringorchids.ca/> or call **204-338-2340**

**Hearts & Flowers**

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



To Arturo Alejandro, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Dave & Elaine Moran for bringing flowering plants to the January Show & Tell.

To Garnet Ward, Ben Rostron for donations to the raffle.



**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.

**2013/2014 Executive**

President Fraser Cameron  
Past President Dave Moran  
1st V.P. Kevin Duerksen  
2nd V.P./Show Chair Wendy Chaytor  
Treasurer Garnet Ward  
Secretary Leah Paluch

Membership Gary Jaworski  
Social Eva Slavicek  
Public Relations Beverly Pukalo  
Special Orders Debbie Robb  
AOS/COC Rep Kyle Lucyk  
Library Ewa Kurnicka  
Newsletter Robert Parsons  
Webmaster Gary Jaworski  
Draws and Raffles Heather Johnson

## **Manitoba Orchid Society Show and Sale March 21-23, 2014 A Rainbow of Colour**

### **An Important Message from Wendy Chaytor, MOS Show Chair**

1) A reminder to all trophy winners from last year to bring in your trophies to the February meeting. If you cannot make it to the meeting, call me at 204-480-7518, or e-mail me at [chaytor.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:chaytor.wendy@gmail.com) to arrange pick-up/drop off before the show.

2) Show Banquet: The Show Banquet will be on Saturday, March 22, 2014. Cocktails at 6:30 PM, Dinner starts at 7:15 PM. Choice of Chicken Wellington (\$33.00), or Prime Rib Roast (\$35.00). Please contact Sylvia Cahill to make a reservation at 204-889-1939, or [syljac@shaw.ca](mailto:syljac@shaw.ca).

### **Confirmed Show Vendors**

**Orchids in Our Tropics** - Doug and Terry Kennedy, Gormley ON

Phone/Fax: (905) 727-3319

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

**Mike Gabrielson** - Sherwood Park, A.B.

Phone: (780) 410-1571

Email: [mikegab@telus.net](mailto:mikegab@telus.net)

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

Phone: (204) 338-2340

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

**Forestview Gardens** – Terry Groszeibl, Agassiz, BC

Phone: (604) 796-0260

<http://www.fvgardens.com/>

Email: [info@fvgardens.com](mailto:info@fvgardens.com)

**Monica De Wit** – Edmonton, Alberta

Email: [monicadwt@gmail.com](mailto:monicadwt@gmail.com)

**Windsor Greenhouses** - Jean Allen-Ikeson

<http://www.windsorgreenhouse.com>

Email: [windsorgreenhouse@gmail.com](mailto:windsorgreenhouse@gmail.com)

## **Promenaea guttata: A Little Brazilian Native with Sizzle**

*By William A. Rhodehamel*

Early on, when I was new to orchid growing, I learned an important lesson. I could take that *Cattleya* hybrid growing in an 8-inch (20-cm) pot to my local orchid society's trade table and open up room for 10 or 12 smaller plants in my under-lights set up. I had come to realize the painful truth that every orchid grower soon learns: orchids fill up all available space, and room for more is always at a premium. I grew (pun intended) to deeply love miniature orchids during my period of growing under lights. Now, growing in a greenhouse has opened up opportunities to grow larger plants as well, but I still love miniature orchids.

One of the miniatures I grew under lights was a specimen of *Promenaea stapelioides*. I thought the plant was so cute, with small ridged pseudobulbs and light green veined leaves, and, when it produced three blooms one spring, I was entranced. I have enjoyed these miniature relatives of the zygopetalums ever since, and have collected all the species and hybrids I could find. This month's contribution to the Connoisseur's Collection is the lovely *Promenaea guttata*, one of my favorites in this wonderful genus.



*Promenaea guttata* 'Fox Den', CHM/AOS, Photo: John J. Nelson

## HISTORY AND TAXONOMY

*Promenaea guttata* (Rchb.f.) Rchb.f. (pro-men-EE-ah goo- TA-ta) was first described by H.G. Reichenbach as *Maxillaria guttata* in 1852, then transferred by him into *Promenaea* in 1856 (*Bonplandia* 4:323, 1856). The species comes from southeastern Brazil, in the Atlantic Forest regions of the states of Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro. The plants occur as epiphytes in moist forests at around 5,000 to 6,000 feet (1,500 to 1,800 m) in elevation. There are no known synonyms for this taxon. The specific epithet *guttata* comes from the Latin word for "spotted." Like most of the species in the genus, *Prom. guttata* has never been widespread in cultivation.

The genus *Promenaea* (abbreviated *Prom.*) was proposed by John Lindley in 1843. The earliest species, *Prom. stapelioides*, was originally described in 1821 as a *Cymbidium*, then later transferred by Lindley into *Maxillaria*. He later realized that *Promenaea* was a distinct entity and erected the new genus to accommodate the few then-known species. During the 19th century, various authors transferred the members of the genus into other genera, primarily *Zygopetalum*, but they finally came to be understood as distinct. The name *Promenaea* comes from the 4th century BC name of *Promeneia*, the eldest priestess at the Greek temple of Dodona, as recounted in the *Histories* of Heradotus. The genus as we now understand it consists of about 20 species restricted to Brazil.

*Promenaea* is a member of the *Zygopetalum* Alliance of the Zygotetalinae subtribe in tribe Maxillarieae. Other more or less commonly grown members of the alliance include *Aganisia*, *Galeottia*, *Koellensteinia*, *Pabstia*, *Zygopetalum* and *Zygosepalum*.

Interestingly, members of this alliance seem to breed freely with many related genera. In fact, *Prom. stapelioides* has purportedly been crossed successfully with *Ansellia africana*, a plant more closely related to cymbidiums.

## DESCRIPTION

*Promenaea guttata* is a miniature orchid with foliage no more than 3 inches (7.5 cm) tall. Most *Promenaea* foliage looks similar, with thin, light-green, veined leaves up to 4 inches (10 cm) tall atop rounded pseudobulbs, but I find that *Prom. guttata* tends to grow a little smaller than most. The species blooms in the late spring to early summer, and generally has single-flowered inflorescences that creep horizontally or hang from the base of the plant, and can reach 3 inches (7.5 cm) in length. The flowers are up to 1 ½ inches (4 cm) across. The sepals and petals are a pale, translucent ivory to light green, and are heavily barred with maroon. The lip is a distinct bright egg-yolk barred with very fine reddish-brown lateral lines to the base. I have not noted a fragrance to the flowers of this, or any other, species of *Promenaea*.

## CULTURE

Promenaeas tend to be easy to accommodate, and I find that *Prom. guttata* has no special cultural requirement that separates it from other members of the genus. As with other *Promenaea* species and hybrids, this one does well in intermediate to cool temperatures, with nighttime minimums between 52 to 58 F (11 to 15 C). Extended daytime high temperatures above 85 F (33 C) should be avoided. The plants need bright, but indirect light, with light intensities between 2,000 to 3,200 foot-candles. This light level will produce fairly distinct shadows if one waves one's hand 18 inches (45 cm) over the plants. The plants should be allowed to just dry out between waterings, and watering with

low levels of dissolved solids, such as rainwater, distilled or reverse-osmosis (RO) water, will highly benefit the plants. In some northern climates, they may benefit from a slight dry rest in the midst of the winter. Relative humidity above 50 percent is also beneficial. *Promenaeas* should generally be potted, although I have seen a few plants mounted successfully. However, the best culture and most natural display is achieved by potting the plants. They have fine roots, no more than 1/16 inch (.2 cm) in diameter, so a fine-textured potting mix is best. I have grown them well in fine bark mixes, high-grade sphagnum moss and some of the soilless mixes favored by some phalaenopsis growers. The plants should generally be repotted every two years into small pots that will just allow a year's growth, although Phil Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut, has stated that he has grown a *Promenaea* in osmunda for more than eight years and the plant still had good roots. Repotting should be done after blooming in early summer as the new growths emerge, although in hotter climates it may be best to wait until fall to repot. I have not found that many of the pests and diseases that can attack other orchids bother *promenaeas*. Occasionally the new growths can rot if water gets trapped in them, but this is avoided with care during the spring, and is the only problem I've observed to be common.

#### HYBRIDS AND AWARDS

There has only been one AOS award to this species, a Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM, 83 points) to the clone 'Fox Den', *CHM/AOS*, owned by Phil Jesup. At the time of the award in July 1989, the plant had nine flowers and one bud. Jesup discussed this plant in his article on the genus in the November 1991 *AOS Bulletin* (now *Orchids*) and how he had obtained this clone as an unlabeled division in 1974. Other than Jesup's article, I cannot find any previous discussion of *Prom. guttata* in AOS publications.

To date, three hybrids have incorporated *Prom. guttata*: *Promenaea* Chameleon (Limelight x *guttata*), *Promenaea* Firefly (*ovatiloba* x *guttata*) and *Promenaea* Partridge (*stapelioides* x *guttata*). All of these fine hybrids were made by the late Ben Berliner, MD. Each of these has its own charm, with variously spotted segments with the bright yellow lip of *Prom. guttata* showing in most clones.



*Promenaea* Firefly 'Hoosier Limeade', *AM/AOS* (*ovatiloba* x *guttata*). Photo: James E. McCulloch



*Promenaea* Partridge 'Little Bit', CCM/AOS (*stapelioides* x *guttata*).  
Photo: James E. McCulloch



*Promenaea* Chameleon 'Ben', HCC/AOS (Limelight x *guttata*).  
Photo: James E. McCulloch

Some clones of *Prom.* Partridge have a beautiful yellow-orange lip with fine lateral maroon lines. All three of these hybrids have received flower-quality awards from the AOS, and I look forward to seeing more exciting progeny from *Prom. guttata*. *Promenaea guttata* has never been widespread in cultivation as far as I can tell, but there have been a few populations of the species grown from seed in the United States in the last 10 years or so. A dedicated search among nurseries that specialize in species should turn up plants of this fine species. It should be more widely propagated and distributed because it is a lovely and easily grown species.

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## **Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting January 19, 2014**

*Recorder: Leah Paluch*

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

### **1. Call to order:**

The president, Fraser Cameron, called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.

Motion by Roswitha Nowak to accept the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Dave Moran.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting:**

Motion by Roswitha Nowak to accept the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Dave Moran. Carried.

### **3. Old Business**

Fraser thanked the members who donated items for the December potluck. They were Debbie Robb, Joan Heshka, Fraser, and Jim Roy. Fraser called upon Kevin Duerksen who introduced the speaker.

### **4. Financial report:**

The treasurer, Garnet Ward reported on the financial statement to the end of December. Garnet moved to accept and it was seconded by Judy Browne. Carried.

### **5. Programs:**

Kevin Duerksen advised that the February meeting will be the repotting workshop. Lorne Heska, Dave Moran and Fraser Cameron will do the demonstrations. Members can bring their own supplies or use what is provided for a small fee. The meeting will start at 1:30 and there will not be a novice meeting. March will be the show, and in April, Gordon Heaps will speak on Mini-Catts.

### **6. Show Chairperson Report:**

Wendy Chaytor advised that the Judges were confirmed. Wendy asked for volunteers to host the judges and Gary Jaworski and the Heska's volunteered. The show book will be available next month. Wendy announced that the banquet will be at the Travelodge and dinner will start at 7:15. There will be a 60/40 split on admissions with the conservatory. Wendy had a message to enter plants for the show; even 1 plant can be entered and be placed in the club display.

### **7. AOS/COC Representative:**

Kyle Lucyk had nothing to report.

### **8. Hospitality:**

Fraser thanked Eva Slavicek and Kevin Duerksen for putting the December potluck dinner together.

Judy Browne, Irene Landry, Joan Heshka and Debbie Robb volunteered to bring the goodies for the next meeting.

### **9. Library:**

Ewa Kurnicka had nothing to report.

### **10. Public Relations:**

Beverly Pukalo was not present. No report.

### **11. Membership:**

Gary Jaworski advised that 87 members had signed up.

### **12. Newsletter:**

Rob Parsons had nothing to report.

### **13. Website:**

Gary Jaworski had nothing to report.

### **14. Special Orders:**

Debbie Robb advised that she had bags of bark available.

### **15. Past President:**

Dave Moran asked for volunteers for the show. New members are welcome and members can do more than 1 shift. The volunteer form will be with the next newsletter.

### **16. New Business:**

Fraser supplied the Secretary with a request from the Beausejour Daylily Gardens. The request asked for a letter of support for a grant application. Lorne Heska moved that the letter be sent, second by Dave Moran. Carried.

### **17. Raffle draw:**

Phyllis McCaskill manned the Raffle table. Winners were Lorne Heshka, Wendy Chaytor, Roswitha Nowak and Colleen Paluch.

### **18. Show & Tell**

Guest speaker Ben Rostron described the plants, assisted by Kevin Duerksen and Rob Parsons.

**19. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Ben Landry at 4:25 P.M.



**Manitoba Orchid Society**  
**Orchid Show, 2014**  
**“Orchids – A Rainbow of Colour”**  
**Volunteer Form**

We require volunteers to help with the annual Orchid Show to be held this year at the Assiniboine Conservatory from Thursday, March 20th through Sunday, March 23rd, 2014. We are looking for individuals to help on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the following areas;

- Individual Display    ( ) Contact Wendy Chaytor (204-480-7518) if you wish to enter a plant display.
- Club Display        ( ) Contact Dave & Elaine Moran if you have plants for the Club Display.
- Preliminary Set Up    ( ) Help with the set up on **Thursday March 20th**, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Set Up                ( ) Help with the final set up on **Thursday March 20th** after 4:00 p.m.
- Registration Desk    ( ) Help with plant registration on **Thursday March 20th** after 4:00 p.m.
- Judging Clerks        ( ) Help with plant judging on **Friday, March 21st** after 4:00 p.m.
- Lounge Assistant    ( ) Assist in maintaining the Volunteer Lounge area **Fri. - Sun.**
- Food Donation        ( ) Supply food for the Volunteer Lounge area **Fri. - Sun.**
- Host / Hostess        ( ) Security and talking with visitors **Fri. - Sun.**
- Admissions            ( ) Collecting admission charge at the entrance **Fri. - Sun.**
- Cashier                ( ) Collecting money for plant sales **Fri. - Sun.**
- Plant Wrapping        ( ) Wrapping the purchased plants for transportation **Fri. - Sun.**
- Take Down            ( ) Help take the displays down after 5:00 p.m. on **Sunday, March 23rd.**

When will you be available?

Thursday    10 AM( ) 4 PM ( )  
Friday        AM ( )    PM ( )  
Saturday    AM ( )    PM ( )  
Sunday       AM ( )    PM ( )

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to Dave Moran by Sunday, March 2nd in person, by mail, by phone or by e-mail:

Telephone: 204-668-5755

E-Mail: [DEMoran@shaw.ca](mailto:DEMoran@shaw.ca)

Address: 66 Highfield Place, East St. Paul, R2E 0G3

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