



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 9 December 2007

Salle Académique, Rm. 1531

St-Boniface College,

196 De La Cathedrale Av.

Starting time is 3:00 P.M.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

Note this the second Sunday in December and starts an hour later than usual.

There is no selling of plants or supplies at the Christmas Party.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 14 December 2007 for January 2008 Issue



The Manitoba Orchid Society extends a warm welcome to Alan Roberts.



December 9

Christmas Potluck: Note this is the **second** Sunday in December. Please contact Joan Heshka regarding your donation, if you haven't already done so.

January 20

General Meeting: Semi-hydroponic culture of orchids with Kyle Lucyk.

January 23-27

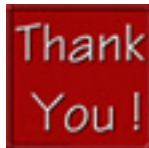
World Orchid Congress Miami, Florida
<http://www.19WOC.com/>

April 26-27

C.O.C. Meeting & Show (Ottawa)
<http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com/>

Hearts & Flowers

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



To Arturo Alejandro, Kevin Duerksen, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Lorne Heshka, Kyle Lucyk & Kimberly Pronyshyn for bringing flowering plants to the November Show & Tell.

To Kimberly Pronyshyn for her donation of books for the raffle.



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.

2007/2008 Executive

Elected

President Dave Moran
Past President Joyce Jaworski
1st V.P. Kyle Lucyk
2nd V.P./Show Chair Lorne Heshka
Treasurer Garnet Ward
Secretary Morganne Jerome

Appointed

Membership Gary Jaworski
Social
Public Relations
Special Orders Jim Roy
AOS/COC Rep Kevin Duerksen
Library Lilianne Foster
Newsletter Robert Parsons
Website Robert Kato



Manitoba Orchid Society Christmas Party

By Joan Heshka

Mark Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 P.M. on your calendar.

This year Lorne and I are hosting the annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner. We always have a great time, sharing our blooming plants at Show & Tell; hoping to win a raffle prize; and, of course, tasting the culinary specialties of our MOS members.

In order to plan, I would appreciate it if you would contact us and indicate what sort of item you would like to contribute, if you did not already get an opportunity to sign up at recent meetings.

Thanks so much. We look forward to an enjoyable afternoon with you and your guests in our usual meeting room, Room 1531, Salle Académique, St-Boniface College on Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 P.M.

If you have any questions or wish to sign up, call Joan at 663-6850.



Late Breaking News

Lilianne Foster has agreed to take on the duties of librarian. The MOS thanks Lilianne for her commitment to this important position, which is popular with members. Thanks also to **Jim Roy** for stepping up and taking on the task of Special Orders. The efforts of both of you help make our society a better one!

Small Growing or Flowering Oncidium Species

By Rod Rice, Photos. Rod Rice

The genus *Oncidium* Sw. is one of the largest and most popular of the orchid family. With as many as 400-800 species (depending on which author you follow or which taxonomic preference you may have) distributed throughout the Americas and the West Indies, there is bound to be one suited to everyone's taste.

Some of the species I will briefly cover in this article, have been moved into other genera. Some of these moves have been seen as controversial by some botanists, and here for the sake of simplicity, I refer to them as *Oncidium* as most growers know them.

Most of us will be familiar with some of the larger flowered species such as *O. crispum* Lodd., *O. forbesii* Hook., *O.*

marshallianum Rchb.f., *O. tigrinum* La Llave & Lex. and *O. lanceanum* Lindl. However, there are also many small flowered species, which are just as showy in their own way. Some species are small growers too, making them very economical for space in the green house. An example is *O. crista-galli* Rchb.f. which is a small grower, i.e. flowering in 5 cm pots, but bears quite large, single flowers in succession for months. Other species such as *O. examinans* Lindl., although a larger grower, can produce an inflorescence up 3m long with many branches. Each main branch bears many smaller branches, in all bearing dozens of small flowers, each reaching 15-18mm in diameter. A whole inflorescence reaching its full potential, can have literally hundreds of flowers and is indeed a spectacular sight.

The variation of *Oncidium* is endless and I am sure many growers appreciate plants that either take up little space and have large flowers, or larger plants which put on displays of masses of small, colourful flowers.

Many *Oncidium* species are being artificially propagated and becoming more readily available.

The other pleasing aspect of *Oncidium*, is that most are very easy to grow. However, some of the Equitant or Mule Ear types can be difficult in the winter months. These plants are best

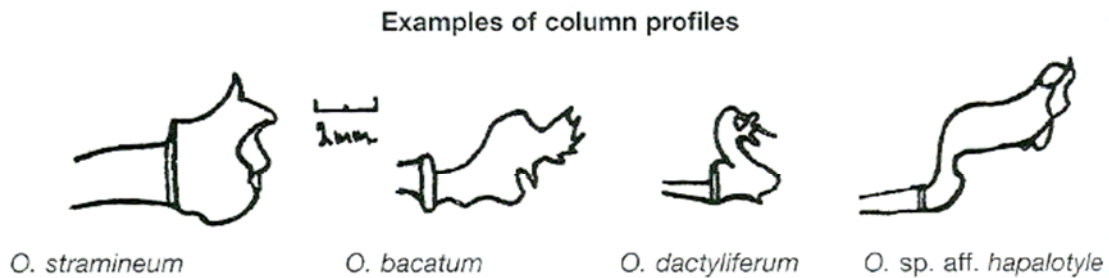


***Oncidium longicornu* Mutel**

grown on slabs or in shallow pots with very coarse free draining media such as river pebbles or volcanic rock. They like it dry and quite humid in winter. Give them a quick drink maybe once or twice a week (if grown on slabs) in winter depending upon your growing conditions and even less often if grown in pots which retain moisture much longer.

They thrive in fresh air and need it all year round. So it is important to maintain good air movement during the cooler months even though you may have your green house locked up to keep in warmth. Either way, the roots must be bone dry by the evening in winter. In summer of course, they love the cooler night air with ample water at the roots, as this is when they do most of their growing. With the flowers in many cases being superficially similar, one should pay close attention to the structure of the column and its wings if present (see figure below for column examples) and the callus after determining the plant habit, while also taking into account, geographic variation.

These sometimes complicated and apparently minor differences of the flower will help determine the identity of the plant at hand.



***Oncidium abortivum* Rchb.f.**

Some of the best, detailed illustrations of *Oncidium* species can be found in the Garay & Dunsterville six volume series *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated* and Pabst & Dung's *Orchidaceae Brasiliensis*.

Unfortunately, both of these are now out of print but I am sure copies would be available in some libraries.

They are essential literature along with the *Icanes Trapicarum* series, among others, for anyone wanting to research the identity of *Oncidium* species.

***Oncidium abortivum* Rchb.f.**

A smaller growing species with laterally compressed pseudobulbs reaching 2-4cm tall. The erect to drooping inflorescence bears one to two, showy flowers at the apex on each branch with one to five aborted flowers below. The yellow flowers, each about 11-18mm wide by 14-20mm tall, are yellow with some brown to bright purple or reddish spots and barring at the base of the labellum and petals and sepals. The column is S

shaped with a minutely pubescent surface.
It is rare in Ecuador, Venezuela and possibly Colombia.

Oncidium baccatum Gary & Dunstv..

This is a very interesting plant, the flowers of which broadly reminds me of the Australian terrestrial genus *Diuris* J. E. Sm. This species produces an erect inflorescence up to 5cm tall with two perfect bright yellow flowers at the apex with two to three aborted flowers below. This species is unmistakable, due to its unique labellum. The margin of the rounded mid lobe has many small, clustered, round skin like air bubbles which are apparently puncture proof. They actually look like dried drops of plastic resin. The column has long, almost falcate wings, which are strongly serrulate-dentate on one side. The callus itself is a broad, three-pronged structure with irregular margins and three rows of warty, tooth-like structures on top. Each flower reaches about 15-16mm tall. This very rare species is a native of Venezuela at altitudes of about 1850m.

Oncidium chrysomorphum Lindl.

The inflorescence of this species is stiffly erect bearing many, tightly clustered flowers arising from bulbs about 4 cm tall, which are laterally compressed with sharp edges. The petals and sepals are reflexed with obtuse tips on flowers reaching 18mm in diameter. The labellum has an obliquely oblong, fleshy, nonpubescent callus with two distinct tooth-like projections on each side of the callus and two at the front. The slender, non-S shaped column completely lacks any form of apical wings. This winter flowering species is native to Colombia and Venezuela.

Oncidium crista-galli Rchb.f.

A smaller grower bearing large (for the size of the plant) showy flowers in succession, each reaching up to 18-20mm across. The sepals are greenish-yellow, the petals yellow with some orange spotting, the labellum yellow with some orange spots near the white callus. A plant of good culture may have up to four inflorescences emerging and or in different stages of bud progression simultaneously from each bulb. A plant with several bulbs, obviously, may put on quite a nice display. The plants are easy to grow and are also strong growers in flask. This quite rare species is apparently meant to occur very sporadically throughout Central America and down into Colombia and Peru. It seems odd that a plant that is apparently so widely yet sporadically spread, is so rare in culture.

Oncidium cruciatum Rchb.f.

This species from Eastern Brazil has clustered pseudobulbs producing inflorescences of smallish flowers, about 18-20mm across with the labellum about 10mm long. The mid lobe has a distinctly broadened base.

The petals are distinctly clawed from a broadly obtuse apex. The flowers are yellow heavily blotched and barred red to dark brown, sometimes completely brown.

This species is sometimes confused with another Brazilian species *O. widgrenii* Lindl., which is also known from Paraguay. However, the latter has larger flowers about 25mm in diameter with a *Oncidium cruciatum* Rchb.f longer labellum to 14mm with a different callus and a smaller, rounded mid lobe sometimes forming two small lobes, an obovate-truncate dorsal sepal and shorter and slimmer tapered petals with a truncate apex with the lateral sepals fused only in the basal half.



Oncidium cruciatum Rchb.f.

Oncidium dactyliferum Garay & Dunsterv.

A plant up to about 18-20cm tall with an erect inflorescence, reaching 18-40cm long with short basal branches, each with two to five interesting and showy flowers. The flowers are only small - up to about 15mm tall - but they have a large, dominant labellum with a membrane like cushioned callus with numerous, radiating long slender teeth or spines. The sepals and petals vary from dark brown with a thin yellow margin to bright yellow spotted red-brown. It is a native of Ecuador and Venezuela.

Oncidium dasystyle Rchb.f.

This is one of the most beautiful flowers of the genus. The small plants with bulbs about 2-5cm tall, bear an arching inflorescence with few but large, very colourful flowers.

The sepals and petals are whitish to greenish-yellow with some red-brown markings. The broad white to greenish labellum has a rich chocolate brown, fleshy callus at the base of its mid lobe. The flowers reach about 25-40mm in diameter.

This species is sensitive to extreme heat.

Article from CVIOS Newsletter December 2005, and reprinted in March News 2006, the newsletter of the Orchid Society of Nova Scotia.



TRAYS OF WATER AND THEIR EFFECT ON HUMIDITY

An interesting question was posed recently on the Orchid Electronic Mail Link. What was the effect, if any, of plants on their own surrounding humidity? I did some measurements on my own plants and discovered some interesting things. I used MICRONTA thermometer/hygrometers placing the sensor within the mass of foliage. Accuracy for this instrument is plus/minus 2% RH and 0.5 degrees C. I took all the measurements in my playroom where I normally grow some Phalaenopsis under lights (and over a tray of water). Since I had recently brought in trays of Odontoglossums, Paphiopedilums, etc., because of frosty nights (they are quarantined in this room before moving their permanent winter location) I was able to measure the temperature and humidity in amongst these plants too. All had been equilibrated to the ambient temperature and humidity of the room for about twenty-four hours. Room temperature was 20.8 C; RH was 54%. I can report that there was no meaningful difference in Relative Humidity amongst plants growing in my setup over a tray of water (54%) or without water (51%). Neither was there a meaningful difference in Relative Humidity between different groups of plants, growing in different media. Temperature varied from 19.5 to 21.1 degrees Celsius from place to place within the room; humidity varied from 51% to 55%.

Humidity of the outdoor air was probably the more meaningful driver in this situation. When there is a small temperature differential between the outdoor and indoor air and when the outdoor air is somewhat humid (60% RH, its effect greatly overwhelmed any pebble tray humidifying effect. It will be interesting to repeat this experiment when the outdoor air is very cold i.e. -30C (yes, it gets that cold in Ottawa/Hull!). That is when I must rely on a vapour barrier between my growing area and the rest of the home to ensure the humidity generated through misting stays with the plants and does not escape into the house. We normally keep the house humidity at no more than 30% RH during the cold winter months to avoid excessive condensation on the windows (and in the walls).

I repeated the experiment the next night before and after watering the plants. While there was still no meaningful difference between trays before watering, there was definitely an increase, from 58% RH to 70% RH, around the plants after watering. I presume that that this was caused through water evaporating from the surfaces of bark and foliage. Misting may be the best way to humidify after all.

Marilyn Light, Chairperson, COC Education Committee.

© COC Newsletter The Quebec Issue 1994, Volume 6 - Number 4



Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting November 18, 2007

Recorder: Morganne Jerome

1. Call to order:

Dave Moran called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm

Dave welcomed all members to the November meeting.

New member Alan Roberts was welcomed.

Dave thanked guest speaker Terry Groszeibl for speaking on the topic of 'Basic Paph Culture' at the Novice Meeting, which was well attended.

Approved Executive Meeting minutes are available from the Secretary at all General Meetings.

Suggestion slips are also available from the Secretary at all General Meetings. Suggestions can also be forwarded to any member of the Executive, provided that your name is included.

Program:

Kyle Lucyk welcomed and introduced guest speaker Terry Groszeibl from Forestview Gardens (BC), who gave a presentation on 'Orchidaceae - Pests and Diseases'.

At the conclusion Dave Moran thanked Terry for his informative presentation, and presented him with a MOS pin and a copy of the book 'Orchids of Manitoba'.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion to accept minutes, as published, proposed by Robert Kato, seconded by Kimberly Pronyshyn, carried.

3. Financial report: Garnet Ward

Garnet presented the Financial Report.

4. Programs: Kyle Lucyk

December: The Christmas party will be held December 9, with dinner at 3:00 pm, in the Salle Academique. Please bring plants for Show & Tell.

January: Kyle will give a presentation on semi-hydroponics.

February: The students involved in the Small White Lady Slipper project will report on their findings. The MOS Show will also be discussed at the meeting.

March: Please note there will be a meeting in March, as well as the annual Show.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Lorne Heshka

The Show Committee is in place.

The Show theme is 'Native Orchids' to celebrate the Native Orchid Conservation group's 10th anniversary. The Conservatory is downsizing their orchid collection, and would like to give MOS members the pick of plants.

Lorne has arranged with Ken Beattie to have MOS members meet at the Conservatory at 9:30 am on November 24. There are approximately 100 plants available.

At 10:30 am a numbered draw will take place to assign numbers to each person present, then each individual will go up (in numerical order) and select one plant. You must be present to participate.

Please note that the plants available may be in rough shape, and it is strongly advised that you quarantine any new plants you bring home.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kevin Duerksen

Kevin is taking orders for the AOS calendar. They are \$10. The deadline for ordering calendars is November 18, 2007.

The calendars will not be in for the Christmas Party in December, contact Kevin if you need to pick up your calendar before the next General Meeting in January.

The World Orchid Conference 2008 will be in Miami.

The Canadian Orchid Congress Show will be in Ottawa, April 26-27, 2008.

Kevin made hand outs with information on the COC Show available at the meeting.

7. Hospitality:

Position is still vacant. Please contact any member of the Executive if you are able and interested. Lorne and Joan Heshka have agreed to set up the annual Christmas Party (December 9, with dinner at 3:00 pm) this year.

Please sign up for the potluck dinner in December, indicating which type of item you will be bringing. Dave encouraged everyone to bring a friend or spouse to the Christmas Party.

8. Library:

Position is still vacant. Please contact any member of the Executive if you are able and interested. Librarian duties include: storage of Library books, bringing in about a dozen books to each General Meeting, taking email/phone requests for books. The books are being stored until a new librarian is found.

9. Public Relations:

Position is still vacant. Please contact any member of the Executive if you are able and interested. Public Relations duties include: sending out advertisements and information to local media to help promote the MOS.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

Gary was absent. No report.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

No report.

12. Website: Robert Kato

The new MOS website will be up by the New Year.

13. Special Orders:

Jim Roy has agreed to take on the Special Orders position.

14. New Business:

If you are interested in books on orchid culture, Bud Ewacha has some copies of titles available through various book distributors.

15. Raffle draw:

Winners were Dave Moran, Ed Maza, Chris Schnell, Colleen Paluch, Eddie Wong, Harvey Keselman. Dave thanked Kimberly Pronyshyn for donating books to the raffle.

16. Show & Tell

Ed Maza described the plants, assisted by Sheila Pilgrim and Dave Moran.

17. Adjournment:

Motion for Adjournment - Colleen Paluch

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