



**Next Meeting: 17 June 2012**  
**Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.**  
**(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)**  
**General Meeting: Conference Room,**  
**Novice Meeting: Room C09**

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**Novice Programme**

To be announced  
**Starts at 1:00PM**

**Regular Programme**

Ron Burch of Connecticut, co-owner of  
Gardens at Post Hill, will speak on  
Cypripediums.

**Starts at 2:00PM**

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**Plant sales by members are encouraged.**

**Bring Plants for Show & Tell**

Goodies will be provided by Diane Tolgyessy, Debbie Robb, Ann Yewish and  
Bev Brown.




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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 22 August 2012 for September 2012 Issue**

	<p><u>June 17 General Meeting:</u> Ron Burch will speak on Cyripediums.</p>
<p><b>Benefits of Membership</b></p>	<p>Manitoba Orchid Society members now receive the following discounts: 10% at La Coste Nursery, 10% at Schriemer Home &amp; Garden Showplace, 10% at Shelmerdine Nurseries &amp; 15% at Village Garden Center, upon presentation of valid membership cards.</p>
<p><b>Mentorship Program</b></p>	<p>The Manitoba Orchid Society is fortunate to have a number of members with a wealth of orchid knowledge. Five such members, Lorne Heshka, Denise Fortier, Joyce Jaworski, Neil Dunham and Jim Gillespie have agreed to act as mentors to newer members who have questions on general orchid culture. These members will certainly try to answer your orchid culture-related questions. I encourage all to phone or approach these members at the monthly meetings with your questions.</p>
<p><b>Hearts &amp; Flowers</b></p>	<p>If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Phyllis McCaskill and let her know.</p>
	<p>To Arturo Alejandro, Wendy Chaytor, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Marilyn Kraut, Ben Landry, Ed Maza, Dave &amp; Elaine Moran and Diane Tolgyessy for bringing flowering plants to the May Show &amp; Tell.</p>
 <p><b>Suggestion Box</b> Help us help you</p>	<p>The Executive encourages all members to provide feedback, comments, suggestions by filling out a comment sheet available from the Secretary at all General Meetings.</p> <p>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.</p>

## 2011/2012 Executive

### Elected

President Joyce Jaworski  
Past President Dave Moran  
1st V.P. Kevin Duerksen  
2nd V.P./Show Chair **VACANT**  
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 **VACANT**

## **Orchid Show Themes: Report**

Members of the MOS (Manitoba Orchid Society) and participants at the 2012 MOS Show were asked to submit suggestions for future show themes. The suggestions were compiled and ballots were handed out at the April 15, 2012 general meeting of the MOS. Each person was asked to indicate his or her three favourite choices from the list.

This exercise was undertaken to provide a list from which future themes could be chosen and announced in June for the following year. This would facilitate those members who chose to work on possibly more theme appropriate displays or displays that require some construction time over the summer months to do so.

When the votes were tabulated the overwhelming favourite was '**A Symphony of Orchids**'. We respectfully submit this suggestion as the chosen theme for the next MOS show.

The following list (in no particular order) contains all suggestions that received votes in the process. We submit these as choices for future consideration as show themes.

Kaleidoscope of Orchids	Orchid Dreams
Orchid Extravaganza	<b>A symphony of Orchids</b>
Orchid Escape	Jewels of the Rainforest
Orchids in Focus	Mystery and Majesty
Orchids & Romance	Rainbow of Colour
Oriental Splendour	Orchid Reflections
The Secret Garden of Orchids	Orchid Journey
Orchids: Tundra to Tropics	Orchids and Fairies
Swing Into Spring With Orchids	Pockets of Orchids
Orchids: Native and Tropical	Orchid Holiday

Submitted by Irene Landry and Judy Browne  
May 27, 2012

## A Couple More Photographs from MOS 2012 Show “Orchids Forever”



Kevin Duerksen's display, first place in Orchid Plant Exhibit - Open 1 - 5 Orchid Plants in Flower.  
*Photographed by Kevin Duerksen.*



**Paphiopedilum Pinocchio**  
*Photographed by Diane Tolgyessy*



## CYPRIPEDIUM CULTURE 101

by Shawn Hillis, *Garden Slippers*

Many tropical orchids once classified as a *Cypripedium* now belong to other genera, such as *Selenipedium*, *Phragmipedium* and *Paphiopedilum*, all are considered lady slippers. The genus of *Cypripedium* consists of about 45 species growing on three continents: Asia, Europe and America. There are 5 species of *Cypripedium* that grow here in Alberta. I grow about 30 *Cypripedium* species in my zone 4 garden year around without any more protection than a little mulch. The plants range from zone 2 all the way up to zone 7, maybe 8. Often plants can be grown much colder than zonal recommendations. Some species are naturally more robust and vigorous. They tend to have a wider distribution in their native habitat. Plants that have a smaller range tend to be more particular about cultural conditions. In general, *Cypripedium* hybrids are easier to grow and adapt to a wider range of conditions. There are currently over a hundred registered crosses. Most are species to species (primary) crosses. Only recently have more complex plants been registered. I grow about 35 registered and unregistered crosses in my yard all of them have proven to be winter hardy. Only one has proven to be fussy. *Cypripediums* are a diverse group of plants with many different growth habits, not all are compatible.



Cyp. Gisela Pastel

The stem less or two-leaved species tend to be the most challenging .North American species like *acaule* or *fasciculatum* as well as Asian species like *fargesii* or *sichuanense*. I have successfully wintered a few of these species outside. I am undecided as to the best way to grow these plants in Calgary. I think in the right spot they can be hardy but they may do better with a longer season than Calgary can offer. Pot culture is probably less risky and can accommodate for a longer growing season.



*Cyp. froschii* & *Cyp. guttatum*

Cypripediums are intolerant of excessive moisture during winter dormancy. Some species are very particular while other species are very forgiving. A balance between good drainage and water retention is the key to successful cultivation.

Temperate orchids require a cold dormancy to reset their metabolism for spring. It is important to remember especially when growing younger plants that most of the growing and activity is actually going on under the ground. Shoots are generally formed long before fall and require at least three months at -4° Celsius. Plants grown in pots can be brought indoors and kept in the fridge.

Cypripedium should be grown as semi-shade plants. Although some species grow in full sun in the wild, protection from the mid-day summer sun is necessary in cultivation.

Cypripediums prefer moist cool sites, which do not become too dry and hot in the summer. Any where ferns thrive is a good place for Cypripedium. Miniature Hostas, Barrenwort and many other small growing woodland plants are ideal. Artificial bogs and other specialty beds are not necessary to grow Cypripedium.

There are two schools of thought about how to grow these plants. Here in North America, growers often try and emulate growing conditions in the wild. They add all sorts of organic material such as pine needles and muck in the hopes of recreating the mycorrhizal relationships found in the wild. It is absurd to think that you can match and or duplicate a specific fungal host. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that many of these plants have been taken from the wild and transplanted. Most European growers have a very different perspective on growing *Cypripedium*. It is less about finding that magic mix and more about creating the best environment for cultivation. This is why so many growers use an inorganic mix of sand, perlite and expanded clay (hydro pellets). All orchids are thought to engage in mycotrophy at some point in their life cycle, but especially as seedlings (protocorms). Mycotrophy is an adaptation that temperate orchids have developed to permit them to survive in less than perfect conditions in the wild. Under favourable conditions as in cultivation they are less reliant on this relationship.



*Cyp. manchuricum alba*

Artificially propagated plants will adapt better to your growing conditions, finding their own balance between photosynthesis and mycotrophic behavior.

I use a 100% inorganic mix when growing seedlings, two leaved species as well as less robust smaller growing species like *wardii*. Most are grown in about 60% organics, 40% inorganic. Like all orchids, it is dependent on the grower's conditions and watering habits. Their requirements are not really that different then what we strive for when growing their tropical counterparts: a free-draining open medium that does not promote stagnate stale conditions that inevitably lead to rot. Air movement, humidity and lighting are all factors when choosing a good mix and planting site. The roots of most *Cypripedium* grow very close to the surface of the soil. This is why it is important to mulch. It will help maintain moisture in your beds and protect the roots and keep them cool. Mulch in my opinion does not protect plants during winter or make them hardier. In



fact, thick mulch beds promote all sorts of problems come spring. The single biggest benefit to mulching is preventing soil erosion in new beds which will leave the plant exposed and very vulnerable to the elements.

Most plants will form shoots (dormant buds) that will grow just below the surface of the soil or with just the tip exposed. This is normal and over time will develop a sheath similar to the brown tissue that protects other orchids like *Cattleyas* as they grow. This sheath helps protect the dormant bud throughout winter and into spring. Only when actively growing does the bud need protection from the elements. Frost and sometimes snow protection in spring is essential. Unfortunately many of these plants will break dormancy before the May long weekend, which is traditionally our last big dump of snow. As long as you cover them they will be fine: frost blankets, burlap, or even a 2 liter pop bottle with the bottom cut off. The one good thing about our cold springs is that cool temperatures during flower formation increase the richness and intensity of the flower color, with it often being darker and more vibrant. A large clump with many flowers will sometimes have a wide range of color variation due to temperature changes during early stages of flower bud formation.

As with any gardening there will be set backs and there will always be casualties. These are the things that make us better growers. These are opportunities to learn from our mistakes so that we will have success in the future. My techniques and opinions on growing these plants are based on what I have learned from my failures as much as my success. I expect close to 300 flowering plants this season. It has been six years of hard work, patience and a lot of lessons learned on what *Cypripedium* don't like.



*Cyp. kentuckiense*

**Check out Shawn's website at [www.gardenslippers.net](http://www.gardenslippers.net)**

*Taken from the April 2010 issue of the newsletter of the Foothills Orchid Society*



## **Minutes – Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting May 27, 2012**

*Recorder: Judy Browne*

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

Joyce Jaworski called the meeting to order. She welcomed new members and had them introduce themselves.

Volunteers for June coffee treats are: Diane Tolgyessy, Debbie Robb, Ann Yewish and Bev Brown.

Kevin Duerksen introduced the speaker, Nina Rach, of Houston Texas, who gave a talk called *“Stanhopeas: New Species, Recent Research and Awards”*.

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

Joyce moved that the minutes of the April general meeting be accepted as they were printed in the newsletter; seconded by Ben Landry; carried.

### **3. Financial Report: - Fraser Cameron:**

Fraser presented the May financial report and moved that it be accepted; seconded by Dave Moran; carried.

Fraser gave an informal report on the show finances, as all expenses are not yet all in.

### **4. Programs: - Kevin Duerksen:**

The June speaker is Ron Burch from Connecticut, who will speak on the topic of Cypripediums. The novice program is yet to be announced.

### **5. American Orchid Society (AOS)/Canadian Orchid Congress (COC): - Kyle Lucyk**

No report.

### **6. Library: - Liliane Foster**

No report.

### **7. Public relations: - Wendy Chaytor**

Wendy gave a brief report and said that she would submit our meeting particulars to Community Events for advertising our June meeting.

### **8. Membership: - Gary Jaworski**

We have 130 members.

### **9. Special Orders: - Darlene Stack**

No report.

### **10. Newsletter: Rob Parsons**

Joyce reported that Rob was currently away and that the June newsletter may be late.

### **11. Web Site: Gary Jaworski**

Gary reported that the website had been moved to a new host server. Some of the MOS e-mail addresses are not yet working properly. Please call Gary if you encounter any problems.

## **12. Unfinished business:**

-Show Theme Contest: – Irene Landry gave a report on the contest, its goals and outcomes. The overwhelming favourite among the themes submitted was “*A Symphony of Orchids*”, Diane Tolgyessy’s entry. Three prizes (donated by Irene) were given to Diane, Lilianne Foster and Joyce Jaworski. Irene moved that the written report be entered in to the minutes so that a record of the show theme suggestions would be available choices for future show themes; seconded by Fraser Cameron, carried.

-Joyce reported that there was a charge of \$300.00 for the bartender at the show banquet. This charge arose because we didn’t meet the minimum attendance required to waive the fee.

-The City of Winnipeg gave the MOS a grant of \$200.00 for the show.

-Joyce noted that a question had arisen about changing the date of our annual show. She explained that the show date was dictated by availability of the AOS Toronto Judging Center’s show date schedule. Unless we change judging centers the date remains the same. The question was posed “Do we keep the same date for our show?” A vote was taken and it was decided that the show date for our show would remain the same, for now.

-Joyce reported that she and Lorne Heshka had a meeting with Gerald Dieleman of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. She indicated that Mr. Dieleman was willing to work with the MOS in building a co-operative partnership with regards to the show. Joyce will ask Lorne to continue talks with the Conservatory.

-Joyce addressed the cost of holding an AOS sanctioned show. The major costs are AOS judges’ airfares and a donation made to the AOS judging center. Fraser Cameron reported that costs for these expenses plus trophies over the last four years were \$2305, \$2182, \$2532 and \$1999. It was suggested that we also consider the request of the COC to host The 2013 COC annual meeting. Costs for hosting the COC meetings include a portion of the proceeds of an auction, meeting room(s) and a luncheon. The COC would give us up to \$1000 to help with expenses relating to room rental for the meeting plus speaker expenses. Ben Landry moved that we hold an AOS judged show in conjunction with the COC annual meetings in 2013; seconded by Rachelle Ginsberg; carried.

## **13. New Business:**

-Joyce reported that the Executive of the MOS has amended the wording about stipends to members for hosting judges or speakers to “Any member hosting a judge or speaker can be paid \$50.00 per night at the discretion of the host.”

-Revenue Canada has now allowed financial records beyond 7 years past to be disposed of. Fraser Cameron will shred appropriate records. There were no objections.

## **14. Raffle:**

Raffle items were donated by Fraser Cameron, Ed Maza and anonymous. Winners were: Garth Ball, Wendy Chaytor, Ben Landry, Arturo Alejandro and Joe Frigo.

## **15. Show and Tell:**

Nina Rach and Kevin Duerksen conducted the show and tell. Nina was amusing and informative. She suggested that when taxonomic names change keep the old tag and just add a new one.

## **16. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Irene Landry.

Next meeting: June 17, 2012.

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