



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 16 September 2012
Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)
General Meeting: Conference Room,
Novice Meeting: Room C09

Novice Programme

Question and answer with Kevin
Duerksen

Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

Phragmipediums and their culture by
Chuck Taylor.

Starts at 2:00PM

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

Bring Plants for Show & Tell.

Goodies will be provided by Eva Slavicek, Joan Heshka, Phyllis McCaskill & Horst
Hack.

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 20 September 2012 for October 2012 Issue



September 16 General Meeting: Chuck Taylor of Edmonton will speak on Phragmipedium culture, a subject for which he has garnered quite some acclaim, and may bring a small number of plants to sell, thus no selling of plants by members at the meeting.

October 21: Annual Manitoba Orchid Society auction. Start getting your plants ready!

Benefits of Membership

Manitoba Orchid Society members now receive the following discounts: 10% at La Coste Nursery, 10% at Schriemer Home & Garden Showplace, 10% at Shelmerdine Nurseries & 15% at Village Garden Center, upon presentation of valid membership cards.

Mentorship Program

The Manitoba Orchid Society is fortunate to have a number of members with a wealth of orchid knowledge. Four such, Lorne Heshka, Denise Fortier, Neil Dunham and Jim Gillespie have agreed to act as mentors to newer members who have questions on general orchid culture. They will certainly try to answer your orchid culture-related questions. I encourage all to phone or approach them at the monthly meetings with your questions.

Hearts & Flowers

The Manitoba Orchid Society extends its condolences to Joan Sutter, on the recent passing of her mother, Margaret Sutter.

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



To Roberta Brotherston, Fraser Cameron, Kevin Duerksen, Horst Hack, Marianne Hack, Joyce Jaworski, Kyle Lucyk, Ed Maza for bringing flowering plants to the June Show & Tell.
To Fraser Cameron, Joan & Lorne Heshka and Ed Maza for their donations to the raffle.

Orchid Collection Reduction

Laurie Kubas is selling some of her orchids. She has a nice mix of Catts, Paphs, Phrags, Phals & Pleuros, as well as a few non-orchid plants for sale. If you're interested, give her a call at 204-582-3068.



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.



In memory
of Joyce
Jaworski,
1936-2012

Photo by Joel Penner

Joyce Jaworski

As virtually all of you know, The Manitoba Orchid Society suffered a great loss with the passing of our president, Joyce Jaworski, this summer. In an attempt to show her contributions to the society and its members, I include two tributes below, one from long-time members and the other from a quite new member.

“Words cannot express the sorrow we share on the passing of our President, Joyce Jaworski. A friend to all, Joyce will be sorely missed.

Joyce was a long-term member of the Manitoba Orchid Society and actively participated in all aspects of the Society. She not only served as President for several terms, but also led us through a number of very successful orchid shows as Show Chair. Her ability to bring out the best in all of the society members, the executive and show committee members ensured success.

The Jaworski home was always open and available for executive meetings, show committee meetings and for discussion of all society events. The comfortable sunroom; with a myriad of blooming orchids - spawned many thought provoking ideas and discussions. A special treat at the conclusion of each meeting was a highlight worth waiting for!!

Guest speakers and American Orchid society judges were regularly invited to stay with Joyce and Bohdy. These guests were always treated royally and seldom refused an invitation to return to the Manitoba Orchid Society.

An excellent orchid grower, one of the highlights of our annual orchid show featured an orchid display of plants from Joyce’s collection. Joyce always collected an assortment of ribbons for individual blooming plants. However, the pinnacle of her orchid growing success was the four American Orchid Society Awards she received for exceptional plants.

In their orchid collections, many members of the orchid society have clones of plants that originated with Joyce, a cherished remembrance of an unforgettable friend!

Our heartfelt condolences to Bohdy, Gary, Theresa, and special Grandson Connor!”

Lorne & Joan Heshka



“I knew Joyce through the Manitoba Orchid Society, as she had been its president for a while. I remember excitedly going to my first monthly meeting in October not knowing what to expect. People directed me to Joyce, and after we talked before the beginning of the meeting she made sure that I had a chance to show one of my videos and describe my project, even though the meeting had gone on a bit long already. I would later go to her house a few times to pick what turned out to be some of my favourite flowers. It was very moving to read in her obituary Joyce was an organized, generous and caring person. She was always ready, spared no effort and would move mountains to help someone in need.”, and to have experienced that in a way that is very meaningful to me.

I didn't know her very well, but in our common pursuit of keeping an awareness of the world around us alive in the public consciousness, we shared something fundamental to both of our lives. Her memory and love for the natural world lives on in the flowers and spirit of generosity she shared with me.”

Joel Penner

Editor’s note: All the flowers in the photo on the preceding page were ones Joyce donated to Joel for his time-lapse photography project.

An Overview of the History of *Neofinetia falcata*

By Terry Kowalczuk

As I was wondering how to write this article, I began to realize that *Neofinetia falcata* is a sort of ‘no fly zone’ in many people’s minds. Indeed it seems that one has to fly to Japan to get these gorgeous gems. At least this is the case when it comes to the Japanese varieties. There are many aspects to this fascinating species including history, variety characteristics and cultivation, just to name a few. I will limit this article to a description of this plant and to its unique history so that you may appreciate a little of what makes this plant so special. Welcome to the wonderful world of *Neofinetia falcata*!

Yes, *Neofinetia falcata* is a single species of orchid native to Japan. If there is one thing I would like you to take away from this, before we look at its history, is that *Neofinetia falcata* is quite simply a species that has transformed itself into thousands of varieties – one species with over 2300 distinct varieties! These varieties have evolved from the regular or ‘wild’ form that we have for years seen for sale in North America and it is called *fūran* in Japanese. *Fūran* means wind orchid. *Fūran*, can be found from the Southwest Kantō Region to Okinawa in Japan. In the wild, the roots of *fūran* grow firmly attached to trees and rocks and the flowers appear to fly in the wind. The plants are small and produce extremely graceful white flowers that have a fantastic scent, which incidentally is one of the most complex in the orchid world.

What makes this plant so interesting and unique is its place in Japanese culture and history. The history, culture, and appreciation of this plant are unlike any other in the orchid world and are steeped in a rich tradition of collecting, starting in Japan’s Edo Era from 1603 to 1868. For the last 400 years, the Japanese have been collecting *Neofinetia falcata* that exhibit unique traits that are visibly different from *fūran* – the wild form. *Fūran* with unique characteristics were given an elegant name called *fūkiran* which translates to ‘*the orchid for the noble and rich*’. Collectors were slowly able to find plants with different coloured flowers, variegation in the leaves, or very different leaf shapes and textures. It is very important to note that to the Japanese the appreciation of *fūkiran* is a form of art and the cultivation of *fūkiran* is a part of Japanese culture and heritage.

Although there is evidence of the appreciation of *fūkiran* before the Edo Era, it was during this time that *fūkiran* was furiously collected. This was a calm and peaceful time in Japan, a time when *engei* or traditional Japanese gardening flourished. Some of the plants collected at this time were *Calanthe*, *Cymbidium goeringii* and *karan*, *Dendrobium moniliforme* and *Omoto*, the latter a very interesting plant but not an orchid.

Collectors were on the lookout for trees, grasses and plants with weird variegation. It was considered fashionable to collect these kinds of plants and this was considered the first boom of *fūkiran*. All of the above mentioned plants often exhibit weird mutations or forms and some of these like the *Omoto* and *Dendrobium moniliforme* could fetch astronomical amounts. A single mutated *Neofinetia falcata* growth could be valued at the cost of buying or building a house! Ienari Tokugawa, the 11th Shogun of the Edo Era was a serious collector of *fūkiran*. People within the Japanese hierarchy would feverishly seek out mutated *fūkiran* to present to the Shogun as gifts.

So *fūkiran* were indeed plants for the rich and wealthy. Appreciation of a *fūkiran* was an interesting event. The Shogun would have a gold or silver net covering the *fūkiran*. To look at them one would use the same procedure as looking at a samurai sword. When the flower was in bloom, the Shogun would hang the plant outside the carriage when he went out. Things were not always rosy for *fūkiran*. At the end of the Edo Era, Japan experienced a period where lavishness and elegance was prohibited. In 1868, imperial rule was restored in Japan during the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912), and with it came a renewed appreciation for *fūkiran*. The Meiji Government encouraged culture from Europe and North America including the introduction of Western orchids. In fact Western orchids became very popular to collect albeit only the wealthy could afford them. This new craze of course took its toll on the popularity of *fūkiran* but several crazy collectors continued to keep them.

Fast forward to the 20th century. Modes do change and *fūkiran* collecting suffered from time to time, however there were those who remained guardians of this honoured and respected tradition. The second *Neofinetia* boom occurred between 1927 and 1943 at which time the plants were very expensive. It was said that when one bought a *fūkiran*, he was subjected to have a party at a restaurant to “unveil” the *fūkiran*. However, at this time, the only people who could enjoy *fūkiran* were those with a high social status such as a doctor, CEO of a company, military elite, and nobility. Everyday people had no chance to enjoy *fūkiran*. Most importantly, in 1939, the All Japan Fūkiran Society was formed. Following WWII the Japanese were in no mood to enjoy *fūkiran*; however two key events triggered the modern revival. In 1970 a book called ‘*Fūkiran*’ was published in Osaka and an artistic orchid show was held in Japan in 1973. From then until now, *fūkiran* suddenly has become more accessible to ordinary people.

Today, *fūkira* may be enjoyed by all. It is important to note that the All Japan Fūkiran Society in Japan does not base the value of the plants on North American or European judging standards and the desirability is determined by its own standards and rankings. Since the beginning, the Japanese have published hierarchy charts for the most valuable of the *Neofinetia* varieties, but this is for another article! My own trip to Japan was eye opening. I discovered that these are amazing gems, compact and not difficult to grow! You do not need to mortgage your house to buy one. However, you may still need to fly to Japan to add your name to a 10-year long waiting list for the most rare varieties. The Japanese were very accommodating. I even learned correct potting techniques from the man who reports yearly for the Imperial Household. I am pleased to share this information with you and to make these plants readily available in Canada. This is the first of a series of articles on this species as the traditions surrounding *fūkiran* are rich. These are truly amazing orchids, unlike any others!

Terry Kowalczuk

With the generous assistance of Michael Hwang

Terry is a *Neofinetia* specialist in Toronto with one of the largest *Neofinetia* retail collections in Canada.

This article was taken from the February 2012 newsletter of ECOS.

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting June 17, 2012

Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill

1. Call to Order:

Joyce Jaworski called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. We have 3 new members today, Nabjob Dhindsa, John & Wanda Epp.

The minutes of the last executive meeting are available from the secretary Phyllis McCaskill. Suggestions are always welcome. Please sign suggestion slips for follow-up purposes and hand them to any executive member.

Joyce is very pleased to announce that Lorne Heshka has volunteered to be 2nd Vice President & Show Chair for 1 year with Joan Heshka assisting.

Gary Jaworski has volunteered to be webmaster.

Volunteers for the September goodies are: Eva Slavicek, Joan Heshka, Phyllis McCaskill, Horst Hack.

Kevin Duerksen introduced our guest speaker Gerald Dieleman, Director of Horticulture at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy. Gerald spoke and answered questions on the plans for the park. Our scheduled speaker Ron Burch couldn't come.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Darlene Stack moved we accept the minutes of the last general meeting; seconded by Jim Roy; carried.

3. Financial report: - Fraser Cameron

Fraser presented the latest financial report. Garnet Ward moved we accept this report; seconded by Judy Browne; carried.

The show summary is still waiting for a few outstanding bills to come in.

4. Programs: - Kevin Duerksen:

The September program speaker is Chuck Taylor and he will bring plants to sell.

October is the annual auction. The November program is not in place yet.

5. Show Report – Lorne Heshka

Lorne stated that he will only be show chair for 1 year and, for continuity, the next show chair needs to be working with Lorne now. If anyone is willing to do this, please contact Lorne or Joyce. The first show meeting will be in September to get a committee together. Dave & Elaine Moran will not be here for the next show so we will need someone to set up the show displays. Call Lorne if you are willing to help.

6. AOS/COC Representative: -Kyle Lucyk

No report.

7. Hospitality: - Eva Slavicek

Eva thanked everyone for all the food brought in this past year.

8. Library: - Lillian Foster

Absent.

9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor

Absent.

10. Membership: - Gary Jaworski

We have 134 members. There are 18 new members.

11. Special Orders: - Darlene Stack

Darlene has the ordered bark in her garage. If anyone is interested in ordering from a particular nursery, let her know and she will organize an order.

12. Newsletter: - Rob Parsons

Rob is working on a problem with some people not getting their newsletters e-mailed to them.

13. Webmaster – Gary Jaworski

The executive e-mails are working and the website will be redone this summer.

14. New Business:

We need a librarian in place by September or there will be no library. We won't ask the executive to take on more jobs. If anyone is able to do this please contact Joyce. Lorne Heshka, Joyce Jaworski and Gerald Dieleman have been meeting regarding the next show. We may be able to use the restaurant space at the conservatory if it's not in use during the show. There is a proposal to split the profit from the vendors' plant sales with the APC. That is all we would pay the APC for use of the conservatory for the show. This is felt to be a very good proposal for the MOS. The MOS needs to make a profit at the show to run our yearly programs. There are still details to be worked out in this partnership.

15. Raffle:

Raffle winners were; Ewa Kurnicka, Roberta Brotherston, Wanda Epp, Nabjob Dhindsa, Jim Roy, Phyllis McCaskill. Thank you to Fraser Cameron, Lorne & Joan Heskha, Ed Maza for donating items for the raffle.

16. Show and tell:

Rob Parsons and Kevin Duerksen did the show and tell.

17. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn Ed Maza @ 4:10 p.m.

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



2011/2012 Executive

Elected

President
Past President Dave Moran
1st V.P. Kevin Duerksen
2nd V.P./Show Chair Lorne Heshka
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 Ewa Kurnicka
Newsletter Robert Parsons
Webmaster Gary Jaworski