



# Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

**Next Meeting: 20 January 2013**  
**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**

“Insects associated with our wild orchids”  
by Marilyn Light

**Starts at 1:00PM**

## **Regular Programme**

“Chinese Orchids:  
Cypripedium and Cymbidium”  
by Marilyn Light

**Starts at 2:00PM**

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**Plant sales by members are encouraged.**  
**Bring Plants for Show & Tell**

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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 24 January 2013 for February 2013 Issue**



**January 20<sup>th</sup>:** Marilyn Light will give two presentations:  
 11 pm (30 min.) Insects associated with our wild orchids  
 2 pm (45 min.) Chinese Orchids: Cypripedium and Cymbidium

**February 17<sup>th</sup>:** Orchid photography.

**March 22-24:** Manitoba Orchid Society Show & Sale:  
 “A Symphony of Orchids”

**Ever Spring Open  
 House, February 9-10  
 2868 Pipeline Road**

A riot of color to chase away the winter blahs. Always an enjoyable event for orchid lovers!

**Hearts & Flowers**

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



To Dave & Elaine Moran for bringing flowering plants to the December Show & Tell.



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 Harvey Keselman  
 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

## **Insects Associated with our Wild Orchids**

A presentation by Marilyn Light

We usually focus on insects that pollinate wild orchids but what about those insects that use orchids as food? Not much is known about native orchid herbivores. We will learn about the leafminers, caterpillars, beetles, and thrips that might be found associated with Manitoba wild orchids such as the western prairie fringed orchid and lady-slippers.



*Leaf Miner on Showy lady's-slipper (Cypripedium reginae)* Photo by Marilyn Light

## **Chinese Orchids: Cypripedium and Cymbidium**

A presentation by Marilyn Light

This presentation will begin with a visit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Chinese Cymbidium conference (2007-Beijing) where 400 vendor-exhibitors had plants on display. We will also see how lady's slippers and other Chinese terrestrial orchids grow in nature. Cultural tips and sources of artificially propagated species/hybrids will be discussed.



*Cymbidium Cai Hong* Photo by Marilyn Light

Editor's note:

We are indeed fortunate to have Marilyn Light address the society's January meeting. She is one of Canada's foremost orchid authorities. A published author and noted speaker; her talks on orchids, both Canadian native species and cultivated tropical species, are always interesting & informative. And perhaps best of all, we get two presentations for the price of one!

# Selecting Containers for Orchids

by Lanny Chow

Spring is just around the corner and it is the time we start thinking about orchids that need to be repotted and/or divided. When it comes to growing orchids, selecting the right container or mount for orchids to settle in is as important as giving them the right light or temperature. Orchids in nature grow as epiphytes (growing on tree branches/trunk), lithophytes (growing on rocky surfaces), terrestrial (growing on ground in decaying organic matters) or even semi-aquatic (close to running water source). Many orchids are very adaptable and will grow in almost any suitable environment but there are a handful of them that are very picky about where they would like to settle in. The following are the most commonly used containers and their recommended usage.



Clay Pot: Clay pots with or without side holes for extra aeration are most commonly used in tropical regions because they resist quick decay from high heat and humidity. They also soak up water for a period of time, but quickly evaporate, making it the number one choice for growing orchids that hate wet feet, such as Dendrobiums, Cattleya and Oncidium type. Use clay pots if you water your plants a lot,

but be careful about salt and mineral buildup from hard water and fertilizer. Hose them down with rainwater from time to time and scrub them out. Also, clay pots are very prone to moss buildup in moist conditions.



Wood, Plastic, Treefern and Net basket:  
These are cheaper alternatives to clay pots and good for use with orchids that like to dry out slightly between watering. Vandaceae orchids are mostly potted in these so their roots can hang down outside. Also orchids that produce flower spike downward such as Stanhopea and some Masdevallia are best suited to these. Note that a wooden basket will breakdown after a few years, but I found it much more pleasing to the eye and it provides a better grip for roots than plastic ones.



Plastic Pot: These pots are the one that are used the most, especially outside of hot weather country mainly due to low cost, light weight and disposability. They come in all shapes, sizes, widths, depths, in clear or in color, heavy duty or light, and they retain moisture a lot longer than clay pot. They are good for growing areas with low humidity or if you don't want to water your collection daily. Use for moisture loving orchids like Cymbidium, Miltoniopsis, Odontoglossum, Phalaenopsis, Masdevallia and terrestrial orchids like Phaius, Calanthe, Spathoglottis, Jewel and Slipper orchids. Use deeper pots for plants with massive root systems and flatter pan pots for those with shallow roots. Extra air holes can be easily manipulated with sharp knife or hot iron rod.



Cork/Wood/Tree Fern Slap and Pole: Any orchids can be tied to these, but they are mostly used for miniature orchids, those with very shallow roots system or those like to ramble around or hang down sideways or upside down naturally.



Plants from Bulbophyllum alliance, most Dendrobiums, Sophronitis, some Cattleyas and Oncidiums are suited for these. Depending on your growing conditions, you can wrap extra moss or coconut fibers around these for extra humidity and moisture.

Of course choosing a suitable container also depends on the type of medium that will be used in it and many factors such as temperature, humidity, frequency of watering, light and the size and type of orchids will also play crucial roles. The golden rule of repotting is always go by the size of the root system rather than the size of the plant and with trial and error, you will find the type of container that is best suited for your plants and your growing conditions.



This article was taken from the April 2012 edition of the newsletter of the Foothills Orchid Society.

## **Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting December 9, 2012**

*Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill*

### **1. Call to Order:**

President Harvey Keselman, opened the meeting 3:05 p.m.

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

Motion by Beverly Pukalo to accept the minutes of the last meeting; seconded by Roswitha Nowak; carried.

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

The last financial report from Fraser is available.

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

Marilyn Light will be here for the January meeting. A program on photographing orchids is scheduled for February.

### **5. Show Report – Lorne Heshka**

There have been meetings with the conservatory regarding the show and a contract will be signed soon.

### **6. AOS/COC Representative: - Kyle Lucyk**

Anyone wanting an AOS calendar needs to contact Kyle as soon as possible.

### **7. Hospitality: - Eva Slavicek –**

Eva thanked everyone for the all the food brought for the Christmas potluck.

### **8. Library: Ewa Kurnicka -**

No report.

### **9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor – absent**

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

We have 92 members.

### **11. Special Orders: - Darlene Stack - absent**

### **12. Newsletter: - Rob Parsons;**

No report.

### **13. Webmaster – Gary Jaworski**

No report.

### **14. New Business**

There was no new business. Everyone got a raffle ticket for our Christmas plant raffle. Harvey wished everyone a happy holiday season and we had our potluck dinner

### **15. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Beverly Pukalo at 3:10 p.m.

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