



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 17 February 2013
Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)
General Meeting: 1:30 in Conference Room

Photography Workshop

Do you ever wonder how people get those amazing orchid photos? Why not come and find out? Lorne Heshka will guide us through a workshop to improve our skills and confidence!

We ask members to bring their own cameras, as well as tripods if you have them.

Note there is no novice meeting, and the regular meeting starts a half hour earlier than usual.

As always, we ask you to bring Plants for Show & Tell, and this time for the workshop, as well. For the latter, while orchids are preferred, all flowering plants can be useful and are welcome.

Plant sales by members are encouraged.




Goodies will be provided by Wendy Chaytor, Joan Heshka, Judy Browne, and Marianne Hack.

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 21 February 2013 for March 2013 Issue

<p>A call for Food Donations!</p>	<p>The show is approaching and we need food to keep all those enthusiastic volunteers on their feet! Please, please call Colleen Paluch at (204) 786-0075 if you can help out with this very important part of the show.</p>
	<p>February 17: General Meeting Photography Workshop</p> <p>March 22-24: MOS Show & Sale “A Symphony of Orchids”</p>
<p>Ever Spring Orchids</p>	<p>Reminder of the open house on February 9-10 at 2868 Pipeline Road. Hope to see you there.</p>
<p>Mentorship Program</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Hearts & Flowers</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, Dave & Elaine Moran, and Eva Slavicek for bringing flowering plants to the January Show & Tell.</p> <p>To Lorne Heshka, Dave Moran, Diane Tolgyessy and Garnet Ward for donations to the January raffle draw.</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 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

2013 Manitoba Orchid Society Show & Sale

“A Symphony of Orchids”

March 22-24

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

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

Monica De Wit – Edmonton, Alberta
Email: monicadwt@gmail.com

Marsh Hollow Orchids -Mario Ferussi
<http://marshhollow.com/index.htm>
Phone: (905) 892-4187

Wild Orchidaceae – Winnipeg, MB
Suite 113-1100 Concordia Ave, East Kildonan, MB R2K 4B8
Phone: 204-663-7753



Calling all Show Volunteers!

You will soon be asked for donations of your time and goodies for the show. For the former, see Dave Moran’s form enclosed, for the latter, please call Colleen Paluch at (204) 786-0075.

Cycnoches The Bewildering Swans

Text by Thomas Miranda / Photographs by Eric Hunt

HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN THAT *EERIE* feeling that orchids might be laughing at us, perhaps conspiring in some way to beguile, befuddle and bewilder us for their own amusement or nefarious purpose? While such anthropomorphisms annoy biologists, it is often hard to avoid attributing playful or even mischievous characteristics to certain types of orchids. In the case of the genus *Cycnoches* and the plants' early history in cultivation, it certainly seemed as if they were playing practical jokes on the premier growers of the day. R.A. Rolfe in his revision of *Cycnoches* (1909) recounts some hilarious, if somewhat vexing, experiences growers had with the genus in the 1830s and 40s. *Cycnoches loddigesii*, the first



▲ With its extremely large and exotic fragrant flowers, *Cycnoches loddigesii* is a personal favorite of many. This taxon caused some consternation in the 1830s when flowers belonging to seemingly two different "species" bloomed on the same plant. Grower: White Oak Orchids

species described and imported to England from Guyana, impressed all who gazed upon its large and exotic blooms with an elongated column that is curved like the neck of a swan (from which the name *Cycnoches* is derived), as well as its enchanting vanillaesque scent. Another species, *Cycnoches cucullatum*, a seemingly identical plant, but, with its short column and lack of fragrance, surely it was something else entirely. But when flowers of both alleged species appeared on the same plant, growers and botanists alike were left scratching their heads. What appeared to be a new species, *Cyc. cucullatum*, was nothing more than *Cyc. loddigesii* with female flowers.

Similarly and perhaps even more vexingly, *Cycnoches ventricosum* proved to be roguish in its growing behaviour. This species was well known in cultivation by the 1840s, with its large greenish flowers. A new different plant from Guatemala was touted by G.V. Skinner, a British trader and plant dealer based in Guatemala, as having the "habit of *Cycnoches* joined [with] the long pendulous stems of a *Gongora*" (Rolfe 1909). Such a bizarre novelty of a plant was eagerly imported and grown with great loving care, but on blooming proved to be more plants of *Cyc. ventricosum*.

Assuming a mistake had been made, more plants were imported, but with the same disappointing result. Finally, Skinner elected to personally escort a plant back to England with him by ship. Blooming with the long pendulous inflorescence while in transit, he was certain that this "new species" would finally be recognized and cultivated.

Nonetheless, when it bloomed again the next season, it made the shorter *ventricosum*-type inflorescence, much to its owner's dismay. But shortly thereafter it made a completely different stem that did bear the coveted, pendulous blooms.



Cycnoches chlorochilon is a commonly cultivated species that grows larger than most. The gracefully curved columns of the male flowers are reminiscent of the necks of swans, hence the genus name.

This behavior may have totally mystified the botanists of the day, even Charles Darwin, but soon after it was realized that the genus creates separate inflorescences that can bear strikingly different, sexually dimorphic flowers.

Cycnoches is a genus of 34 species of low-elevation, warm to hot-growing epiphytes from seasonally dry forests occurring as far north as southern Mexico and as far south as northern Argentina. Plants grow rapidly in their summer growing season and require warm temperatures - 80-90 F (27-32 C) days and 65-70 F (18-21 C) nights - lots of fertilizer and a well-draining but moisture-retentive medium. Their elongated, leafy, cigar-shaped pseudobulbs can grow quite large in a single season and will usually continue to grow as long as they are given warm temperatures. Flower spikes usually appear in the autumn from near the apex of these large pseudobulbs just prior to plants entering their dormancy as the cooler weather and shorter days approach. The pseudobulbs are deciduous during the dry season and growers must be vigilant about keeping them as dry as possible while they are dormant. Some growers actually remove the leafless pseudobulbs

from their pots, and even detach the previous years' roots to prevent them from rotting during dormancy. Care must be taken when these plants start active growth again, usually in February or March, as they rot easily if watered heavily before extensive new roots have formed. Usually it is best to wait until late March or April before repotting, watering and fertilizing sprouting pseudobulbs.



Cycnoches barthiorum bears many exotic, fragrant blooms on dangling scapes.



Cycnoches cooperi makes rather large flowers which are variable in hue and many forms exist now that they are being plentifully produced from seed.

Aside from the species originally imported during the early years of orchid discovery and explorations in the New World, such as *Cycnoches maculatum*, *Cycnoches chlorochilon* and *Cycnoches pentadactylon*, some exciting species have more recently entered cultivation.

Some of the most notable are the chocolate-scented and hued *Cycnoches cooperi*, the astonishing *Cycnoches barthiorum* with its 3-inch (7.5 cm) flowers and the yellow-flowered *Cycnoches herrenhusanum*. All of these have captured the hearts of orchid growers and hybridizers. These species are a wonder to behold when well cultivated and bloomed. The first time I saw *Cyc.barthiorum* with its large, fragrant earth-toned flowers displayed on a cylindrically arranged inflorescence at the Greater New York International Orchid Show in the 1990s, I finally understood what "orchid fever" was. I still get that blissful feeling of wonder every time I see this species in bloom. Even though I do suspect it is "laughing" at me, I don't care. That's how cool they are.



Cycnoches warszewiczii 'Giant Swan' is another species bearing large and fragrant green flowers. The female flowers are shown.



Female flowers in the genus *Cycnoches*, like those shown on this *Cyc. cooperi*, are produced in fewer numbers on shorter less pendulant spikes, but are generally larger and last longer than the male flowers.

Taken from the June 2012 issue of the newsletter of the FVOS.

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting January 20, 2013

Recorder: Robert Parsons

1. Call to order:

Harvey Keselman called the meeting to order at 2:00P.M. and welcomed two new members and several guests. Volunteers for bringing goodies for the March meeting: Wendy Chaytor, Joan Heshka, Judy Browne, Marianne Hack. Kevin Duerksen introduced Marilyn Light who gave a presentation on Chinese cymbidiums & cypridiums. She had also presented a talk on insects associated with North American orchids in the field in lieu of the novice program. Both were well received by the membership.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion by Ben Landry to accept the minutes of the January meeting, as published; seconded by John Epp; carried.

3. Financial report: Fraser Cameron

Fraser presented the financial report for November along with a motion to accept this report; Seconded by Dave Moran; carried.
Fraser presented the financial report for December along with a motion to accept this report; seconded by John Epp; carried.

4. Programs: Kevin Duerksen

February meeting will be a photography workshop, and there will be no novice meeting.
No meeting in March because of the show.

5. Show Chairperson Report: Lorne Heshka

An agreement with Assiniboine Park Conservancy for a contract is in place, as are judges. Ernie Gemeinhart will be the banquet speaker. The banquet will take place at the same time & location as last year, and the cost will also be the same. We may need billets for a couple of the judges. Last but not least, we still need a show chair for next year.

6. AOS/COC Representative: Kyle Lucyk

No report.

7. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

Thanked all who brought goodies and reminded everyone we needed volunteers for next month's goodies.

8. Library: Ewa Kurnicka--No report.

9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor

Has lined up places to send show posters to and will do so as soon as she gets electronic copies of the files.

10. Membership: Gary Jaworski

Gary advised we have 95 members.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons--No report.

12. Website: Gary Jaworski--No report

13. Special Orders: Darlene Stack--No report.

14. Raffle draw:

Winners were Harvey Keselman, Dave Moran, Ben Landry, Ann Yewish, & Judy Browne.

15. Show & Tell

Guest speaker Marilyn Light described the show & tell plants, with assistance from Kevin Duerksen.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by John Epp at 3:46P.M.

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

**Manitoba Orchid Society
Orchid Show, 2013**

“A Symphony of Orchids”

Volunteer Form

We require volunteers to help with the annual Orchid Show to be held this year at the Assiniboine Conservatory from Thursday, March 21st through Sunday, March 24th, 2013. We are looking for individuals to help on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the following areas;

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| Individual Display | () | Contact Lorne Heshka (663-6850) 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 21st , 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. |
| Set Up | () | Help with the final set up on Thursday March 21st after 4:00 p.m. |
| Registration Desk | () | Help with plant registration on Thursday March 21st after 4:00 p.m. |
| Judging Clerks | () | Help with plant judging on Friday, March 22nd 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 24th. |

When will you be available?

Thursday 9 AM () 4 PM ()

Friday AM () PM ()

Saturday AM () PM ()

Sunday AM () PM ()

Friday to Sunday shifts are as follows

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Name: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Please return form to Dave Moran by Friday, March 1st in person, by mail, by phone or by e-mail:

Telephone: (204) 668-5755

E-Mail: DEMoran@shaw.ca

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

Please note! Elaine and Dave will be away during the show and need to get things organized as soon as possible! Last minute changes should be arranged with Roselyn Fortier at (204) 895-8776 or at dfortier9@shaw.ca.

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