



Next Meeting: 21 April 2013
Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)
General Meeting: Conference Room,
Novice Meeting: Room C09

Novice Programme

Swap & Shop

Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

Topic to be announced.

Starts at 2:00PM

Plant sales by members are encouraged.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

Goodies will be provided by Phyllis McCaskill, Lilianne Foster, Jim Gillespie &
Garnet Ward

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 25 April 2013 for May 2013 Issue



April 21: Swap & Shop

In need of space after overbuying plants at the show? Here is the perfect place to take excess plants!

May 26 (Note Rooms B132 and C167 both in north Campus.):

Calvin Wong from Tropical Gardens Orchids

<http://www.tgorchids.com/> speaking on Judging at the 2011 Japan Orchid Grand Prix (Tokyo Dome)

June 16: Terry Kowalczyk from Flora Peculia talking on the Japanese tradition of growing and appreciating Fukiran.

Message from the President

Harvey is preparing a packet for distribution to the membership, consisting of a set of recommendations and motions to be voted on at the April meeting.

Hearts & Flowers

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



To all those volunteers who put in so much time & effort at the show. The MOS owes you a debt of gratitude.



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.

2012/2013 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

Plant stands for sale from Jim Gillespie
(204-885-1050) or dizzgolf@shaw.ca



Upper photo:
Standard 5ft
3-tier
T12 bulbs; 3 bulbs per tier
Shelves 4ft wide.
Older unit...asking \$25.



Lower Photo:
6ft adjustable
Trays 4 ft wide
Converted to T5 bulbs to get rid of the heavy
ballast.
\$50.00 or best offer

Editor's Note:

We are unfortunate to be losing such a valued member, but the membership is extremely fortunate to benefit from Jim's generous offer—if I'd had the space, both of them would have been sold to me instead of going in the newsletter! Members can contact Jim to make arrangements to pick up the stands from his home. By contrast, many of the plants you see in the photos will make an appearance for sale at the April meeting (probably including the novice meeting swap & shop). I suspect some of the unsold plants will continue to be available for sale & pick up, but contact Jim to be certain.

THINK SMALL

... and discover the might of miniature Cattleyas Part 1

By Frank Fordyce

For some time hybridizers have been intrigued by the small-growing, miniature flowered Cattleyas, yet no one has really emphasized these urchins of the Cattleya world in a major way. That is until now.

Having been involved in the "big business" of orchid growing and merchandising, I have never truly found the time to enjoy orchids from a hobbyist point of view. . . until now.

While I'm still a commercial grower, I have suddenly found myself as enthusiastic as the most avid hobbyist I've seen. Perhaps it's because I now have the time as a small grower to appreciate plants again.

While still involved with Mclellans, I began to observe that amongst the plus factors of the ever popular Slc. alliance was its compactness of plant size. As long as the blooms are bright and cheery, they are accepted even though they are not of the standard larger bloom size. This observation led to the mericlone of the popular *Sl. Psyche* and the beginning of a group of hybrids utilizing *Sl. Psyche*, *C. aelandiae*, *C. luteola*, *C. schilleriana*, *C. violacea*, *Sl. Gratrixiae* and others.

Upon re-establishing our own business, I became even more intrigued (even possibly obsessed) with the establishment of an entire breeding program involving the dwarf-growing Cattleya types. My first research brought to mind the obvious clones that had been familiar to me, but upon deeper search I discovered that a wealth of things were possible and the more I read, the more valid the subject became.

To begin, miniatures of all types have been, and are currently, popular. From the miniaturization of photos, art, automobiles, computers, to many breeds of animals and plants, the list is endless. Miniatures are widely offered and readily accepted. They're petite, perky, and fill a somewhat sentimental spot in many hearts. But the practical side of me questioned, beyond their obvious artistic appeal, are there practical and economical reasons for miniaturization? The more I thought about this factor, the more I became convinced that there could be no better time than during our expanding energy shortage to introduce these petite energy savers. Since hobbyists and commercial growers alike are spending increasing dollars in the heating of greenhouses, costs of plastic pots and growing materials, any means of curtailing these costly items would be welcomed by all. By growing the dwarf-growing miniature Cattleya-types, we can produce blooming-size plants in 3 ½" -4" pots, utilizing less potting material, less fertilizer and water, and, most importantly, we can house far more plants per square foot than the present standard-sized hybrids. Additionally, many of these diminutive plants are easily grown on slabs of bark or tree fern, and can be hung on walls and from rafters overhead. If you are not so fortunate as to have a glasshouse, miniatures are just the thing for "Orchids under lights." While most standard Cattleya hybrid plants seldom present an aesthetic appearance, the smaller growing foliage of the miniatures is quite attractive. Just what is considered a miniature Cattleya? That has never been established, but after measuring the overall total plant height of many clones, it is my observation that the following might be used as a general guide.

The smaller growing Cattleya-types (species or hybrids producing blooms generally resembling the Cattleya bloom) seem to fall into several general plant sizes. The sub-miniatures are (if we might borrow a word from our British friends) a "trifle," and

generally measure, from the rhizome to the tip of the longest leaf, 3-4". Most of these delightful plants are of blooming size in 3" pots and more frequently than not are bred directly from the Sophronitis group.

Plants having an overall height of 5-10" would qualify as "miniatures." *C. luteola*, *C. aclandiae*, *C. nobilior*, *C. walkeriana*, *Sc. Doris*, *Slc. Yellow Doll*, *Sl. Jinn*, *Sl. Gratrixiae*, and scores of others fall into this group. The majority of the popular "red" *sophrolaeliocattleyas* fall into yet another group, measuring 10"-14" overall. Under average growing conditions such popular hybrids as *Slc. Madge Fordyce*, *Slc. Hazel Boyd*, *Slc. Califarnia Apricot*, *Slc. Falcan*, *Slc. Bright Sprite*, and *Slc. Jewel Box*, fall into this group. The standard Cattleya-types encompassing hybrids of Cattleya, Brassocattleya, and Laeliocattleya usually have overall plant heights of 14" or more. In beginning our hybridizing program of miniatures I naturally turned to the Sophronitis line of breeding because of its diminutive plant size, fine form, and brilliant red color. Another obvious species to use was *C. luteola*. Because of its multiple blooms (up to 9 per stem), ease of bloom, small plant size, and yellow coloring and past performance, this was "a must." *C. aclandiae* was not to be overlooked as a valuable dwarfing influence. *L. milleri* far its dwarfness, bright color and long stem influence. From these backgrounds came such beautiful hybrids as *Sl. Psyche*, *Slc. Yellow Doll*, *Slc. Yum Yum*, *Sc. Doris*, *Slc. Precious Stones*, *Slc. Dixie Jewels*, and scores more. Can you imagine such crosses as (*Slc. Hazel Bayd* x *Slc. Yellow Doll*), (*Slc. Madge Fordyce* x *Sl. Gratrixiae*), (*L. milleri* x *C. luteola*)? These are just a beginning far we cannot overlook *C. walkeriana*, *C. schilleriana*, *C. violacea*, *C. superba*, *C. nobilior*, many of the 28 valid species of the rupicolous (rock growing) laelias, *L. breigeri*, *L. esalqueana*, *L. flava* and *L. longipes*, *L. lundii*, *L. dayana* and other possibilities. And what of *Leptotes bicolor*? The many small-bulbed Encyclia Epidendrums, Broughtonias, and of course, the myriad of exciting combinations possible by the use of these plants. Until now only a few have observed combinations such as the following interesting genera:

Brassophronitis (Bnts.) Brassavola x Sophronitis

Catdeyopsis (Ctps.) Natural genus

Catdeyopsistonia (Ctpsta.) Broughtonia x Cattleyopsis

Catdetonia (Ctna.) Broughtonia x Cattleya

Epitonia (Eptn.) Broughtonia x Epidendrum

Fujiwarara (Fjw.) Brassavolax Cattleya x Laeliopsis

Gaundettara (Gtra.) Broughtonia x Cattleyopsis x Laeliopsis

Hartara (Hart.) Broughtonia x Laelia x Sophronitis

Laelonia (Lna.) Broughtonia x Laelia

Stanfieldara (Stdra.) Epicattleya x Sophrolaelia

Rolfeara (Rolf.) Brassavola x Cattleya x Sophronitis

Leptolaelia (Lptl.) Leptolaelia

Jimenzaree (Jmzra.) Broughtonia x Laelia x Laeliopsis

These are but a few of the imaginative hybrids possible. Do they stimulate your minds to even new combinations? As you can readily see, there are many directions to follow in the "miniature Cattleya-type" breeding line.

If you appreciate the saving of money, increasing the quantity and variety of your collection while retaining the square footage, for a small effort you too can discover the might of the miniatures. *Orchid Digest, January-February 1982*

Here are a few images from the MOS 2013 show, A Symphony of Orchids. These particular photos, of colorful small Catts, are somewhat in keeping with the theme of the preceding article on mini-catts. Many more (I hope) photos to come in the May newsletter.





