



## **Manitoba Orchid Society**

**For the Love of Orchids Newsletter**

**Next Meeting: 15 September 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**

Question and answer session with Kevin  
Duerksen.

**Starts at 1:00PM**

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### **Regular Programme**

Terry Kowalczyk of Flora Peculia on  
**The Japanese tradition**  
of growing and appreciating  
Fuukiran.

**Starts at 2:00PM**

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**No selling of plants by members at the September meeting.**

**Bring Plants for Show & Tell.**





Goodies will be provided by Eva Slavicek, Carolyn Neufeld & Darlene Stack.

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 19 September 2013 for October 2013 Issue**

	<p>The M.O.S. welcomes Karen Fontaine.</p>
	<p><b>September 15 General Meeting:</b> Terry Kowalczyk on "The Japanese tradition of growing and appreciating Fuukiran"  He will be bringing plants for sale, thus no plants for sale by members at the meeting, and he will be accepting pre-orders. Members can contact him directly: <a href="http://florapeculia.ca/neofinetiafalcat.html">http://florapeculia.ca/neofinetiafalcat.html</a> .</p> <p><b>October 6 Annual Auction</b>—Start getting your plants ready. Please note the early date!</p>
<p><b>Orchid Collection Sale continues from Neil Dunham</b></p>	<p>Neil still has a good selection available and all must find new homes! Contact Neil at 204-255-3230 or <a href="mailto:ndunham@shaw.ca">ndunham@shaw.ca</a></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. Three such, Lorne Heshka, Denise Fortier and Neil Dunham 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><b>Hearts &amp; Flowers</b></p>	<p>If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call the secretary and/or newsletter editor and let them know.</p>
	<p>To Arturo Alejandro, Lorne Heshka, Gary Jaworski, Ewa Kurnicka, Ben Landry, Ed Maza, Carolyn Neufeld, Colleen Paluch and Darlene Stack for bringing flowering plants for the June Show and Tell.</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>

## **2013/2014 Executive**

President Fraser Cameron  
Past President Dave Moran  
1st V.P. Kevin Duerksen  
2nd V.P./Show Chair Wendy Chaytor  
Treasurer Garnet Ward  
Secretary vacant

Membership Gary Jaworski  
Social Eva Slavicek  
Public Relations vacant  
Special Orders vacant  
AOS/COC Rep Kyle Lucyk  
Library Ewa Kurnicka  
Newsletter Robert Parsons  
Webmaster Gary Jaworski

## **Editor's Message:**

I hope everyone's orchids did well over the summer and will produce some wonderful blooms, ideally just in time for the show, which will be a week earlier than usual this year. The M.O.S. participated in the St. Vital Agricultural Society's show over the summer (and signed up at least one new member). We owe many thanks to the members who put in some time. Our upcoming dates for this year are indicated below. Normally the third Sunday of each month, but the usual exception of December (a week early), and the frequent exceptions of March (no meeting because of the show) and May (a week late to avoid the long weekend) are in effect. We also have the October auction much earlier (two weeks) than normal because we weren't sharp enough to get our bid in on time and April (one week early because of the ridiculously late Easter date).

## **2013/14 Manitoba Orchid Society Dates of Interest**

**September 15 General Meeting**

**October 6 General Meeting**

**November 17 General Meeting**

**December 8 General Meeting**

**January 19 General Meeting**

**February 16 General Meeting**

**March 21-23 M.O.S Show and Sale**

**April 13 General Meeting**

**May 25 General Meeting**

**June 15 General Meeting**

## **CULTIVATING MASDEVALLIAS IN HOT SUMMER REGIONS**

By Riccardo Motterle Illustrations by Federico Motterle

*Riccardo Motterle, a research chemist for a fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals company, began growing orchids at the age of 12. He now raises tropical orchids, as well as terrestrial species from Australia and Europe. His special interest is in rescuing native orchids from construction sites, and he now manages several hundred rescued plants. Dr. Motterle lives with his wife and son in the countryside near Vicenza, a small town about 70 km from Venice, Italy.*

Masdevallias and related genera are very desirable orchids, not just for the particular form of their flowers, but also for their wide range of colors. Moreover, Masdevallias are generally very small plants; with greenhouse space often at a premium, an enthusiast can grow a collection of many different species and hybrids within a small space. Unfortunately, amateur growers can find it difficult to successfully maintain these plants during the hot summer months. Masdevallias are native to the humid mountain regions of South and Central America, where they normally experience quite cool and humid conditions. If you are fortunate to live in a location with cool, humid conditions, or if you have a greenhouse cooler, you will have no problem. On the other hand, if you live in an area with hot summers and without a cooler in your greenhouse, you may watch your beautiful orchids die, despite your best attempts. And you will probably give up hope of every cultivating these beautiful orchids.

This happened to me. I live in the Pianura Padana, a plains area in the north of Italy. When I first tried to grow a few Masdevallias, I had no problems during fall, winter and spring, but with the coming of summer I lost all my plants. We have too little moisture in my region from June to the beginning of September, and temperatures can reach, or even exceed, 35°C in a shade house. A few years ago another orchid lover, who lives close to my home, showed me that by growing his plants on the bank of a small river, the problem was resolved. He placed his plants in a shady spot very close to the river edge; the evaporating water increased humidity and kept the temperature lower. Well, you are probably thinking, "but only very few people have a river nearby". Correct! What I am suggesting is that you create a small 'river' in your own growing area. Inspired by what I saw (and in particular by the very good results that my friend had with his plants), I decided to try simulating his growing conditions. The apparatus I made is very simple and can be moved from one place to another, for instance, if you want to transfer your plants from the greenhouse to a shade house.

### Materials Required

I used the following materials to create the 'river':

1. a plastic container 10 cm deep and big enough to contain all my Masdevallias
2. a small water pump (like the ones used to circulate water in small aquariums)
3. plastic tubing with an internal diameter of about 5 mm
4. a bucket with a diameter similar to shorter side of the plastic container

### Assembling the 'River'

I put the bucket on the ground directly below the plastic container (see Figure 1). Then I placed the plastic container sloping slightly in the direction of the bucket, and made some holes in the final part placed above the bucket. I put the water pump into the bucket, connected one end of the tubing to the pump and I placed the other end in the part of the plastic container opposite the bucket. The outlet of the tubing was placed at the bottom of the container, generating a flowing film across the bottom of the container. Then I placed all my masdevallias into the container and in a shady location.

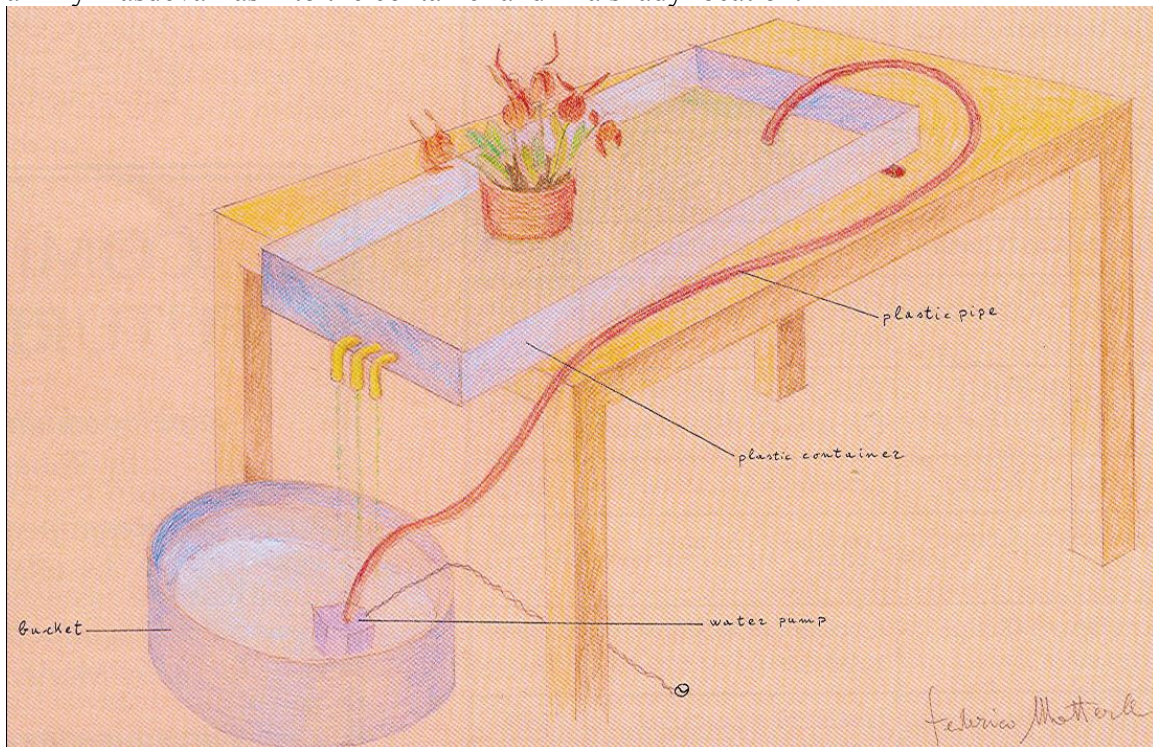


Figure One



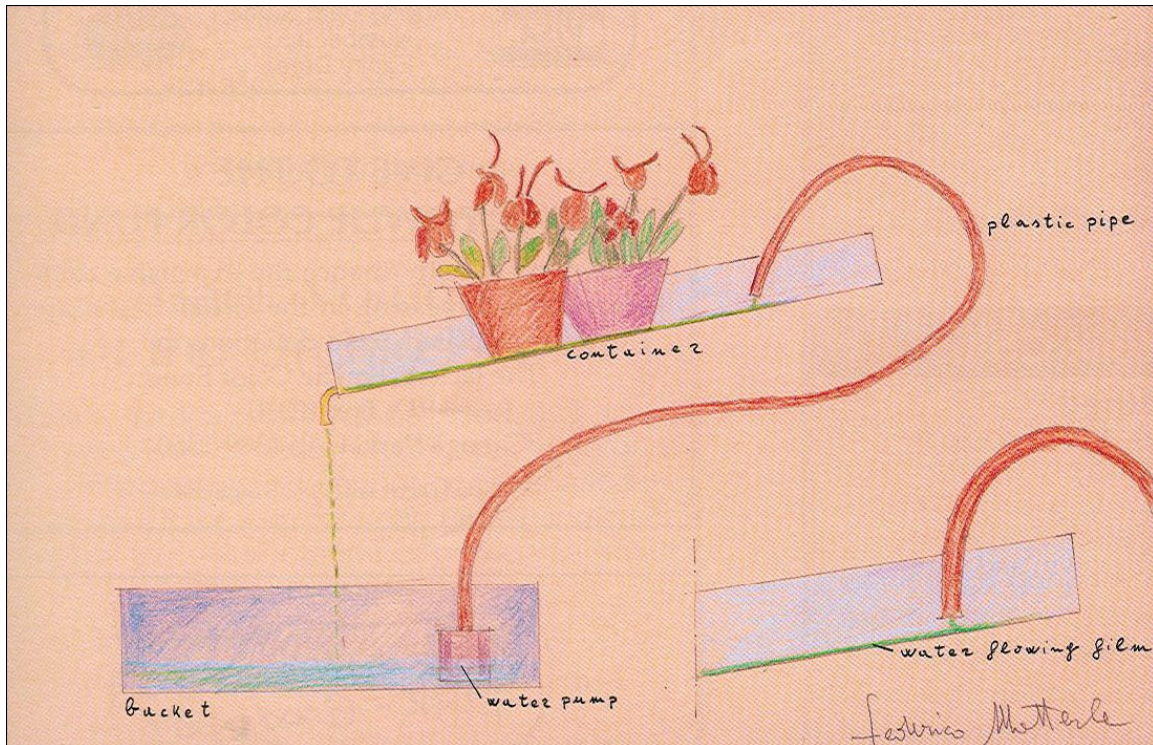


Figure Two

### Beware the Pond I Approach

Some may object: "I can simply put the plants in the container with some water in the bottom." But the situation you would obtain is different; you are creating a 'pond' instead of a 'river'. Simply filling the container with water would cause these problems:

- \* Stagnant conditions, with a high risk of fungal disease. With the 'river' apparatus described above, water is always circulating. Add a few drops of a good fungicide to this circulating water and any problem of fungal disease is normally eliminated.
- \* You must use a relatively large quantity of water, otherwise the 'pond' in the container may run dry after a short time (this can ruin the pump).
- \* The plants would have their 'feet in water'. While this may be good for *Phragmipediums*, we all know that in general orchids, including *Masdevallias*, do not like constantly wet feet. A thin film of water flowing below the pot, however, is something different. The plants will absorb some water by capillary action in an environment that is constantly moist, but not wet.

### Variations on the I River'

Some possible improvements or variations to this 'river' system are:

- \* Add expanded clay to the bottom of the container and put the plants on top of it. This will limit direct contact with water. I haven't tried this, but a friend of mine did, with successful results similar to mine.

\* Use a very, very weak solution of fertilizer instead of plain water. This practice must be done very carefully because as the water evaporates, the residual solution will become more concentrated. A good way to avoid salt buildup is to fill the bucket with the nutrient solution once a week and replace the evaporated water with pure water only. At the beginning of each week, change the entire solution, so you start the week fresh. In addition, once a month I fill the bucket with distilled water and use only that for one week to eliminate salt buildup problems.

\* Add a fan directed toward the container. I suggest directing it with an angle between 30 and 60 degrees with respect to the plane of the container. This will act like a miniature evaporative cooler and keep the atmosphere fresh and buoyant. Using a fan will speed up evaporation, however, so make sure there is plenty of water in your bucket.

### **Benefits of a Dynamic System**

When we speak or read about the relationship between orchids and water, we always come

across the statement: "keep your plants moist, but not wet" (I say this above, too). But what is the real difference between the 'pond' and 'river' approaches to orchid culture? In my opinion, it is that one system is static, and the other is dynamic. If your plants are constantly wet and sitting in a 'pond', they are experiencing a static (stagnant) situation. Evaporation is very slow via a small surface area, facilitating fungal and bacterial disease, and air movement is poor. Exchanges of water and air between pot, substrate, plant and the ambient environment are too slow. However, if your plants are growing near a 'river', the total moisture in the overall system may be the same (in fact, it may be more) than the pond approach, but because of good air movement and quick evaporation of the water, exchanges between all the parts of the system are correct for the healthy developments of your plants. During the growing season, try leaving your Masdevallias out in the rain (that is '*en plein air*' with the natural air circulation). Those plants will grow healthy. Give these plants less water when growing them inside your greenhouse, otherwise the environment will become too stagnant.

I hope my experience will help orchid enthusiasts in places with hot summers all over the world to increase their success with Masdevallias.

**Riccardo Motterle , via S. Felice 8/ A , 36057 Arcugnano , Vicenza, Italy**  
**Reprinted from Orchid Digest, April, May, June 2003**

## **Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting June 16, 2013**

*Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill*

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

Kevin Duerksen called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Please forward any suggestions or comments to the executive for consideration.

Dave Moran had surgery on June 5 and is doing well. We all wish him a quick recovery.

Volunteers for bringing coffee time treats for September are; Eva Slavicek, Carolyn Neufeld, Darlene Stack

Needing no introduction, Lorne Heshka gave a presentation on Wild Flowers of Churchill. Thank you Lorne.

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

Motion by Kevin Duerksen to accept the minutes of the last meeting; seconded by Darlene Stack; carried.

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

Fraser presented the financial report to date. Allowing for some outstanding bills from the show, we have made approximately \$2800 from the show.

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

The St. Vital Horticulture Show is on Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup> 4-8 p.m. The MOS will have an information and display table promoting the MOS and we need a few more volunteers. Please contact an executive member if you can help.

### **5. Show Chairperson Report: Lorne Heshka – no report**

### **6. AOS/COC Representative: Kyle Lucyk – no report**

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

Thank you to everyone who brought coffee time treats this past year.

### **8. Library: Ewa Kurnick – no report**

### **9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor - no report**

### **10. Membership/Website: Gary Jaworski**

Gary advised we have 110 members.

### **11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons – no report**

### **12. Special Orders: Darlene Stack – no report**

### **13. Old Business:**

There was a motion made by Harvey Keselman at the April meeting under Matters/Motions. The motion reads: "We will have a judged show only once in a two to three year consecutive period."

Gary Jaworski amended this motion to read... We will vote on the show every year. Seconded by John Epp; Carried.

Fraser informed us that we can afford to have a judged show next year.

Motion by Jim Roy that we have an AOS judged show next year; seconded by Gary Jaworski; carried.

Fraser Cameron went over the proposed changes to the constitution as stated in the copies sent to the membership and recommended by the executive.

Fraser moved that all changes to the constitution and bylaws as presented today be accepted; seconded by Rob Parsons; carried.



**14. New Business:**

Elections. We are still in need of someone for secretary, public relations and special orders.

Ed Maza conducted our elections asking for any nominations from the floor. There were none. He then read out the slate of officers to be accepted.

President – Fraser Cameron; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Kevin Duerksen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Wendy Chaytor; Treasurer – Garnet Ward; AOS/COC – Kyle Lucyk; Library – Ewa Kurnicka; Membership/Web – Gary Jaworski; Newsletter – Rob Parsons; Social – Eva Slavicek

Vacant - Secretary, Public Relations, Special Orders.

This slate of officers is declared elected.

Motion by Fraser Cameron that all Constitution and Bylaw changes passed today supercede all previous copies of the Constitution and Bylaws. Seconded by Jim Roy; carried.

**15. Raffle draw:**

Winners were Giovanni Frigo, Diane Tolgyessy, Carolyn Neufeld, Darlene Moar, Darlene Stack.

**16. Show & Tell**

Rob Parsons and Kevin Duerksen did the show and tell on the plants brought in.

**17. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Ben Landry @ 4:10 p.m.

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



*Phrag. Fritz Schomburg (kovachii x besseae) grown & photographed by Robert Parsons.*