



Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

Next Meeting: 6 October 2013

Note the early date!

Conference Room

Canadian Mennonite University,

600 Shaftesbury Blvd.

(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)

Regular Programme: Annual Auction

Starts at 1:00 P.M. (note time is earlier than the usual meetings) with plants being accepted after 12:30 P.M.

This year's proceedings of plant sales will be split 50% for the club and for the contributing member. To make it easier for our volunteers, please pay by cheque.

Ensure you have 2 tags in each pot, one with your name and the other with the name of the plant.

Plants must be sold through the auction only—no other selling of plants is permitted at the October meeting.

Only members in good standing (i.e. membership paid up) by the beginning of the meeting may buy or sell plants at the auction.

No Novice Program and no Show & Tell.

Goodies will be provided by Phyllis McCaskill, Irine Frigo and Irene Landry.

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

Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 23 October 2013 for November 2013 Issue



October 6 Annual Auction

November 17 General Meeting topic TBA

December 8 Christmas Party Potluck

Mentorship Program

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.

Hearts & Flowers

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

Orchid Collection Sale continues from Neil Dunham

Neil still has a good selection available and all must find new homes! Contact Neil at 204-255-3230 or ndunham@shaw.ca



To Neil Dunham, Lorne Heshka, Merilyn Kraut and Eva Slavicek for bringing flowering plants to the September Show & Tell.

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.

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 Leah Paluch

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

Editor's Message:

October means it's auction time! This is often a great way to add to your collection. For anyone selling plants, ensure you have a tag with your name on it if you wish to receive the seller's portion. All plants without tags will be considered a donation to the club—these are always appreciated, as our president pointed out at the September meeting! Since there is sometimes a large volume of plants, we start the meeting early so we aren't keeping people too late. If you are a novice and would like some help in knowing what's easy to grow, identify yourself to an executive member and we will try to pair you up with an experienced grower who can help you in selecting. See you there!

Mesophyll Collapse in Phalaenopsis

By Patrick Lindsay

(Reprinted with permission from the Phalaenopsis, the Journal of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, First Quarter 2008, pp 18-19 and taken from the August/September 2009 issue of the Journal of the Central Ontario Orchid Society.)

Hexum, Northumberland, UK. During the summer of 2005, a faulty thermostat allowed a constant stream of cold air flow through a 12 inch fan into my greenhouse. Because it was summer and the Phals did not show any signs of stress, I thought this was, at worst, a benign problem. Many months later, however, when the plants began putting up spikes, the leaves started taking on a horrendous appearance. What I thought was a benign summer problem with the thermostat had, over time, resulted in mesophyll cell collapse, a degenerative condition of Phals that affects new leaves.

Mesophyll cells can collapse for a number of reasons, but temperature extremes often trigger the condition. Cold, in one form or another, is almost always the primary cause, although excessive heat also can be the culprit. In another example, for instance, some of my seedlings suffered a partial collapse of the mesophyll cells when the cabinet in which they were growing overheated. Mesophyll cell collapse is recognized in its initial stages by a discoloration on the upper surface of the leaf, which may resemble yellow circles or streaks. This condition may go unnoticed in a large collection until the leaf takes on the appearance of mite damage.

Growers can determine whether their plants are suffering from cell collapse or insect damage with a 10x magnifier. In the case of mesophyll cell collapse, the damage may turn from a silvery appearance to black, but not in every case. The appearance of the damaged section of leaf seems to depend on the severity of the cell collapse and the plant itself. Once this condition has been diagnosed, then one has to think back several months to try and establish the cause.

In the case of the faulty thermostat and the cold evening air in the summer, the condition didn't become apparent until the plants experienced the stress of putting up flower spikes. Phals use 40% of their energy to produce flowers. Obviously, the fan has been reversed to expel from the greenhouse—which is a bit like shutting the stable door after the horses are gone!

Another cultural condition that can cause mesophyll cell collapse from sources such as a leak in the greenhouse roof.

This problem only affects the leaves the water falls on. It should not be confused with evaporation drip, in which case the water falling from the inside portion of the roof tends to be warmer than outside water dripping through a roof leak. Evaporation drip is also less likely to affect the leaves than a drip from a roof leak, except when it may hit the center of the plant and cause crown rot.

Plants purchased at shows may also harbor unseen problems with mesophyll cells. At the London show in March of 2005, I bought four small plants of Dtps. Taiwan Red Cat. One of them broke out in cell collapse when it produced a spike. The next three leaves the plant produced also were affected. I allowed the plant to spike again, which may have contributed to the problem. One of the other four plants, after carrying a flower spike for several weeks, recently developed symptoms on its newest leaf.

The four plants of Dtps. Taiwan Red Cat were imported from Taiwan for the London show. Some other plants I purchased at the show that also suffered from mesophyll cell collapse were imported from Europe. The dealer who sold me the plants later acknowledged that all of them had experienced cold temperature while being shipped to London. These plants recovered more quickly than the ones that were subjected to evening draft.

Phal growers can only do so much to combat cell collapse. Preventive measures include: avoid cold drafts; stop any drifts (or move the plant); ensure that the temperature control systems are functioning properly; ask vendors if their plants may have suffered from cold temperature in the hold of the aircraft, in customs sheds, or in any other ways during transit.

There is no magic cure for cell collapse. It may take several new leaves before the plant grows a 'clean' one. On a contaminated plant, even the spike can discolour and may be unsuitable for stem propagation, although I have yet to establish that. It is my opinion that if you suspect a plant has mesophyll cell collapse, it may help by not letting it flower. In my experience, mesophyll cell collapse does not affect root growth.

I have had many growers, including dealers, ask me what is wrong with their plants when the leaves start taking on a disturbing appearance. They seem as baffled by mesophyll cell collapse as I once was. I hope this article has thrown some light on this very frustrating Phal ailment collapse in cold-water drip.

PHALANOPSIS DISEASE

Editor's Note: The following is a post-and-reply on a Phalanopsis forum known as Freelist (<http://www.freelists.org/post/orchids/Query-re-Phalaenopsis>). It was reprinted in the March 2012 issue of the Vancouver Orchid Society Newsletter and the March 2012 issue (Vol. 29, #6) of the Saskatchewan Orchid Society. Reproduced here with a couple of spelling corrections.

I am encountering something that I have not seen before. Apparently flourishing Phal seedlings are dropping their leaves, ultimately leaving none and then they die. There are no chew marks or other signs of outside influence. The chief victims are mottled leaf species, but by no means all of them are affected or only they. Does anyone have experience with this - night temperatures, perhaps?

Oliver Sparrow.

Hello Oliver. What you are describing sounds a lot to me like a Taiwanese disease called Taiwan Yellows. The Taiwanese have been using high levels of antibiotics for years on these plants in their giant production houses to control Pseudomonas bacteria. They have used these antibiotics so much that they have created a super strain of the bacteria which although latent when they ship their plants to foreign countries usually erupts on infected plants in a month or two after shipping.

Often the cool temperatures encountered in shipping in containers by sea and the cooler environs of finishing greenhouses in say North America and Europe often portend the onset of the bacterial infection. We have had many customers come in with these mass produced plants from some of the big box stores wanting us to diagnose the problem. We simply don't allow those plants in our retail area anymore due to the virulent nature of this bacteria.

My own experience goes back to the World Orchid Conference in Miami in January of 2008. I went there to look for plants to add to my breeding stock and had purchased 10 Phal. bellina coerulea from a Taiwanese vendor. I brought them back to Minnesota, potted them up and put them on the bench to grow and flower out in the coming summer. After about 2 or 3 weeks I lost one of the plants and then another etc. every week or two until I started noticing that in the same area radiating in an outward circle more and more of my plants were becoming infected. This went on until early summer and the circle of death was enlarging as time went on. I had thrown out over \$50,000 worth of plants and not just Phalaenopsis but any other species as well. I tried using every fungicide and bactericide I could find including Physan 20, Phyton 27, Cleary's and others and could not stop the spread. I had to get the University of Minnesota involved and they looked at the cell tissue and found that there was the highest concentration of the bacteria in a cell that they had ever seen.

Their suggestion was to destroy every plant in the greenhouse and then to bleach all the greenhouse surfaces including walls, benches, floors, glazing, everything!

After collecting orchids for 30 years I could not imagine destroying plants that could simply not be replaced. I just happened to read in a greenhouse trade magazine about a

new product that was made of dimethyl ammonium chloride laced with urea that would go inside the plant tissues and kill bacteria, fungal and even virus from within but yet still preserve the nucleus of the cell. I was ready to try anything so I called the company that made it and they sent me some samples to try. After 1 application the disease was halted. I applied the product 2 more times at 2 weeks apart and managed to clean the bacteria right out of the plant. Yellow leaves, slowly over a period of 2 or 3 months, regained their green look and what amazed me more was the cleaning of certain orchid viruses right out of Stud Phalaenopsis that I knew had virus but kept anyway for historical purposes.

One of the symptoms can be a yellow watery filled leaf. The disease spreads through water and can swim across benches and up walls as well as across the floor. I know of folks in Canada and the US who have lost their whole collection to this disease; some were commercial growers and others were hobbyists.

Not all Taiwanese plants or growers have this problem but I do believe that since some countries like the USA or other European countries started allowing Taiwanese Phalaenopsis to be imported with the sphagnum moss and pots they were originally growing in, the problem has only gotten worse.

Bare root plants didn't seem to be as much of a problem before. I have also personally seen Dendrobium weevils hiding in the sphagnum moss and then climb up the flower stems to chew on the flowers.

We growers were asked by the U.S.D.A. for comments and opinions about allowing plants from Taiwan in to the US with the potting mix (moss) still on the roots and in pot. US growers all voiced their opposition to this idea but we were brushed aside as what this was really about was a reciprocal trade deal made during the Clinton era. The Hawaiian growers tried to sue the government but they made a mistake and sued them in Washington D.C. where things have a habit of being tilted in the government's favor. It would have been better to sue in Hawaii. The Hawaiians then decided to impose a ban on plants arriving in Hawaii in moss and in pot but the USDA forced their hand and told them they couldn't impose a State rule over a Federal rule regarding national agricultural commerce.

I would suggest that any serious hobbyist or commercial grower either isolate new plants for a time or treat them and isolate them to prevent a tragic loss of beloved stock that is sometimes irreplaceable.

*Orchids Limited 4630

Fernbrook Ln N Plymouth, MN

55446 USA TOLL FREE

1-800-669-6006

www.orchidweb.com

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting September 15, 2013

Recorder: Leah Paluch

1 . Call to order :

Fraser Cameron called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Two new members were present and introduced.

Kevin Duerksen introduced Terry Kowalczuk who presented “The Japanese tradition of growing and appreciating Fukiran” along with a video, after the presentation, on how the plants are potted.

2 . Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion by Phyllis McCaskill to accept the minutes of the last meeting; seconded by Wendy Chaytor; carried.

3 . Old Business:

Fraser thanked the members that previously held positions. He also advised that there were three positions that had not been filled in the June elections. Members were found to fill the vacancies.

Fraser asked Kevin Duerksen to nominate candidates, and Ed Maza to run the Election.

Those nominated were

Secretary - Leah Paluch

Public Relations - Beverly Pukalo

Special Orders - Debbie Robb

Ed asked if there were any further nominations. Hearing none he declared the candidates elected by acclamation.

Fraser advised that the constitution will soon be ready for publication.

4. Financial report: Fraser Cameron

Fraser presented the financial reports for June, July and August, a financial report for the show, the end of year financial report, and the Treasurers Year End report. All the reports were moved as accepted by Rob Parsons; seconded by Jim Roy; Carried

5. Programs: Kevin Duerksen

Kevin advised that the next meeting will be the auction on October 6. This meeting will start at 1:00 and plants will be accepted after 12:30. Put your name on the plant if you want 50% of the proceeds. Only paid members will be able to participate. Nothing yet for the November program and December will be the pot luck.

Kevin asked for membership participation in the novice programs, please contact him if you are interested.

6. Show Chairperson Report: Wendy Chaytor

Set up will be on March 20, and the show will run March 21 to 23. The theme is Rainbow of Colors.

Wendy announced that there was a vacancy in the hospitality room and she also needed someone to work on the show book. She will be sending out a survey for banquet ideas.

7. AOS/COC Representative: Kyle Lucyk - not present

8. Hospitality: Eva Slavicek

Thanked everyone for the coffee break items and asked for volunteers for the October meeting.

Phyllis McCaskill, Irine Frigo and Irene Landry volunteered.

9. Public Relations: Beverly Pukalo - not present

10. Membership/website: Gary Jaworski

48 renewals today and he needs input for the website.

11. Newsletter: Robert Parsons

Rob advised that due to the early October meeting, the deadline for the next newsletter would be today.

12. Special orders: Debbie Robb

Debbie advised that there was bark for sale.

13. New Business:

Fraser advised that he had received two requests for donations and asked if the membership thought that the donations should be made. There was no action recommended by the membership.

The Executive Committee recommend that a Draws and Raffle Committee be formed.

Fraser asked Robert Parsons to read a notice of motion regarding the forming of a Draws and Raffles Committee.

“On behalf of the Executive Committee, I move that the MOS create a Draws and Raffles Committee, whose head would become a member of the Executive Committee.

The duties of the Draws and Raffles Committee would include arranging for prizes, and selling tickets for Draws and Raffles as required at both regular meetings of the Society, and at the Show Banquet. There may be situations where tickets for Draws and Raffles may be given away, and not sold.”

This will be voted on at a future meeting.

Fraser spoke about the display that was set up at the St. Vital Horticulture Show.

14. Raffle Draw:

Winners were Phyllis McCaskill, Ann Yewish, Arturo Alejandro, Joan Heshka, Darlene Moar, Ewa Kurnicka, Darlene Stark and Eva Slavicek.

15. Show & Tell

Robert Parsons and Kevin Duerksen did the show and tell. Plants were brought in by Lorne Heska, Neil Dunham, Eva Slavicek and Merilyn Kraut.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Rob Parsons at 4:16 pm.