



## Manitoba Orchid Society

For the Love of Orchids Newsletter

**Next Meeting: 8 December 2013**  
**Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.**  
**(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)**  
**General Meeting: Conference Room,**  
**Novice Meeting: Room C09**

**MOS Christmas Party**  
**Starting time is 3:00 P.M.**  
**Note this the second Sunday in December and starts an**  
**hour later than usual.**

**Bring Plants for Show & Tell**  
**There is no selling of plants or supplies at the Christmas Party.**



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 18 December 2013 for January 2014 Issue**



**December 8:** Christmas Party Potluck--One week earlier and one hour later than normal.

**January 19:** Guest speaker Ben Rostrun at both general and novice meetings. Topics TBA.

**February 16:** Repotting Workshop

**AOS Calendars**

Kyle will put in an order for calendars if there is sufficient interest, and it appeared there was at the November meeting. Email him at: [kylelucyk@gmail.com](mailto:kylelucyk@gmail.com)

**Hearts & Flowers**

Long time MOS member Pat Turenne passed away, unexpectedly, in October. Her dedication to the society will be missed.

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



To Arturo Alejandro, Roberta Brotherston, Ewa Kurnicka, Kyle Lucyk, Dave & Elaine Moran, for bringing flowering plants to the November Show & Tell.

To Neil Dunham, Joan & Lorne Heshka and our guest speaker, Bryan Emery, for their donations to the November raffle draw.



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.

**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  
Draws and Raffles Heather Johnson

## Christmas Orchid

By Graeme Murray

The term, "Christmas orchid" is a name for various orchids that usually flower around the time of Christmas and include:

- *Angraecum sesquipedale* (Star of Bethlehem Orchid)
- *Cattleya percivaliana* (Percival's Cattleya)
- *Dipodium punctatum* (a hyacinth orchid)
- *Winika cunninghamii* (Winika)

*Angraecum sesquipedale*, is also referred to as the Christmas Orchid, Darwin's Orchid, King of the *Angraecums*, or Star of Bethlehem Orchid.

The Latin name "sesquipedale" means "a foot and a half", and refers to the length of the flower's nectar-containing spur. Charles Darwin famously anticipated the existence of a moth with a proboscis long enough reach the bottom of the flower's nectary. The predicted moth was later discovered in

1903; it is the hawk moth *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*. They usually bloom in midwinter when cultivated in the northern hemisphere (hence the "Christmas Orchid" moniker,) and the white, waxy flowers are fragrant at night, to attract its nocturnal pollinator. Individual flowers can last a couple of months.

They originate at low elevations in Madagascar. They typically grow as epiphytes on the most exposed parts of tree trunks, on trees at the fringe of forests; in cultivation, this means they want to dry out quickly and receive plenty of breeze, such as from a fan. They also get frequent rainfall in nature, so in cultivation, water frequently.

These plants can get quite large; roughly 3 feet high is typical, and leaves are roughly a foot long and they grow monopodially. They like intermediate to high light and they prefer relatively high humidity of 50-70%.

In order to stimulate heavy flower production its important that the light intensity be greatest between September and November.

*Angraecum sesquipedale* is commonly found to have a slow growth habit, but the orchid can be expected to produce flowers even before it has reached an adult size.

On the next page is a picture of *Angraecum sesquipedale* in bloom, followed by the other Christmas orchids.

*Happy Holidays!*



Angraecum sesquipedale



Cattleya percivaliana



Dipodium punctatum



Winika cunninghamii

*Taken from the December 2012 London Orchid Society News*

## Home Remedies For Pests And Diseases

by Robert Lucas (reprinted from the March 2009 SOS newsletter by request)

### Rust

One of my enduring memories of growing up in Saskatchewan in the 1950s was a comment that my dad would make whenever it rained for more than a day, “there goes the wheat crop to rust.” With little background in botany, I assumed that moisture rusted wheat the same way it rusted the fenders on our 1951 Pontiac. Now, thanks to a serious infestation of the fungus rust in my Paph and Phrag collection this last summer, I now understand that while the fungus rust works in a different manner than the metal variety, it is just as effective a killer.

At first I thought the scarring of the leaves was just old leaves dying. It was not until a whole bench of plants began exhibiting the same symptoms that I knew I had a problem. For those of you lucky enough to never have seen the consequences, here is a picture of infected leaves on Phrag Jason Fisher.



Soon plants began dying and nothing I did seemed to have any impact. In desperation I called Horst Bohne to seek advice. He suggested cinnamon, but I complained that it was very difficult to shake the powdered form into all the leaves, for most of it ended up on my bench. This was when he suggested the following formula for cinnamicide as he called it.

### Cinnamicide

250 ml rubbing alcohol (70%)

75 ml cinnamon.

Soak the cinnamon in the rubbing alcohol for two or three days until the alcohol is saturated with cinnamon.

Strain the solution through cheesecloth once or twice and the remaining liquid can be placed in a spray bottle.

I followed instructions and sprayed the infected plants with the solution. It turned the leaves the color of light cinnamon, but the new growths came out clean, as the following picture illustrates.



### **Spider Mites**

To complete my summer of discontent I also experienced an infestation of spider mites. A month or two before leaving for a summer holiday in Europe, I purchased some Phals and forgot the first rule of good culture, quarantine new plants until you are certain they are clean. Then I left for some wine drinking in the Mosel valley, hiking in the Black Forest and Zermatt, and eating in Tuscany. But I digress.

During my absence the weather turned unseasonably warm and temperatures in my plant room reached 35 degrees c. I had arranged for two people to water in my absence, but with the extreme temperature, the plants dried out. Heat and lack of moisture are two conditions that spider mites love and when I returned, I found that four or five generations had spread through my collection. Here is an example of what they can do to Phals on the next page.



## **Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting, November 17, 2013**

*Recorded by Leah Paluch*

### **1. Call To Order:**

The president, Fraser Cameron called the meeting called to order at 2:00. A new member was introduced.

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Motion by Dave Moran to accept the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Rob Parsons. Carried.

### **3. Old Business:**

Fraser Cameron, advised a volunteer for the position of the Draws and Raffle chairperson was still needed. Fraser then had Kevin Duerksen introduce guest speaker Brian Emery who gave a talk on Pleurothallids.

### **4. Financial Report:**

The treasurer, Garnet Ward reported on the financial statement as of the end of October. Copies were available to those interested. Garnet moved to accept and it was seconded by Jim Roy. Carried.

Garnet also reported on the budget. Garnet moved to accept and it was seconded by Dave Moran. Carried.

### **5. Programs:**

Kevin advised the next meeting would be the Pot Luck Supper on December 8. A speaker is planned for January and repotting workshop in February. He called for volunteers to demonstrate repotting techniques.

### **6. Show Chairperson report:**

Wendy Chaytor reported she is still looking for someone to take care of the hospitality room. The next 3 years are booked and reserved with the Toronto Judging Centre. Kyle advised Judges now being sought from Eastern Canada.

### **7. AOS/COC Representative:**

Kyle Lucyk advised that if there were enough people interested, he could put in an AOS calendar order. E-mail Kyle by December 8 if interested.

### **8. Hospitality:**

Eva Slavicek advised there were sign up sheets for the Pot Luck at the front of the room or give her a call.

### **9. Newsletter:**

Rob Parsons had nothing to report.

### **10. Library:**

Ewa Kurnicka had nothing to report.

### **11. Public Relations:**

Beverly Pukalo asked if there was a budget for advertising. She was looking into ads in the Coffee News.

### **12. Membership:**

Gary Jaworski was absent.

### **13. Special Orders:**

Debbie Robb suggested ordering the perlite mentioned by Brian Emery. Dave Moran offered to bring some in for whoever was interested.

### **14. Past President:**

Dave Moran had nothing to report.

### **15. New Business:**

Fraser advised that Heather Johnson had accepted the position for the Draws and Raffle Chairperson. Fraser spoke about the Pot Luck Supper and asked for donations for the raffle.

### **16. Raffle draw:**

Winners were Debbie Robb, Denise Fortier, Darlene Stack, Giovanni Frigo and Arturo Alejandro.

### **17. Show and Tell:**

Brian Emery described the show and tell plants, assisted by Kevin.

### **18. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Rob Parsons at 3:55.