



Orchidata

Message from the President

February 2016

Show season is upon us and by the time you read this the SOOS show will have just ended. Our show is right behind it and as usual we are raising the flag for more volunteers. For several years now, it has become more and more difficult getting members to volunteer for our annual show and the day-to-day society tasks. Finding people to join the society's executive and/or volunteers to help set-up our show displays at outside shows has proven exceedingly difficult. We a tough time last week gathering enough of a group to put up our display at SOOS and we almost had to cancel putting up a display. These displays are quid pro quo relationship. If we do not put up displays at their shows they likely will not put displays at ours.

I found out recently that London had to cancel their show due to a lack of volunteers. I would hate for our society to have these issues but we heading that way. So folks please consider this a call to arms, let's volunteer.

Switching gears slightly the Show is a great time to check your membership status. Although memberships are not due until the beginning of June, there is a "Show Special" that allows you to renew in advance and thus lock in your fees at the current rate until June 2017. For new members, it means they also get three months free, so if you know someone who is thinking of joining, this is worth mentioning.

Drew




Phalaenopsis lowii
By Drew Goddard

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Date	Location
February 21, 2016	Room 5
February 27& 28, 2016	Annual Show Date
March 13, 2016	Room 5
April 17, 2016	Room 5
May 15, 2016	Room 5
June 12, 2016	Room 5
July 2016	President's Picnic
August 21, 2016	Room 5
September 18, 2016	Room 5
October 16, 2016	Room 5
November 20, 2016	Room 5
December 18, 2016	Room 5


Our Annual Show

Mark it on your calendar:
Our show is on February 27 & 28, 2016!



Royal Botanical Gardens
ORCHID SOCIETY

35th Annual
Spring
Orchid
Show & Sale



Thousands of
orchid blooms
to see!

Orchid Cultural Seminars,
Orchid Sales & Art Displays
Admittance free with admission to RBG.

Royal Botanical Gardens
680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington, ON

Saturday, February 27, 2016
Noon - 5pm

Sunday, February 28, 2016
10am - 5pm

Photographers Sunday
8am - 10am

Visit our website for additional information
www.osrbg.ca

Receive **\$3 OFF** an adult or
senior admission to the RBG.*

*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers or discounts. No cash value. Limit one \$3 discount per coupon. Valid ONLY February 27 & February 28, 2016.

Upcoming Events

February 21, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Drew Goddard, Artificial Lighting for Orchid Growing

February 27 & 28, 2016 – OSRBG Annual Show. Setup for show is on Friday, February 26, 2016.

March 13, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, The Annex. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** Repotting Session

March 19 & 20, 2016 – Les Orchidophiles de Montreal **Orchidexpo 2016**, CÉGEP de Maisonneuve, 2700 Bourbonniere Street, Montreal, Quebec

April 9 & 10, 2016 – Toronto Artistic Orchid Society **Annual Show** Centre for Information and Community Service (CICS), 2330 Midland Road, Scarborough, Ontario

April 16 & 17, 2016 – Ottawa Orchid Society 35th **Annual Show and Sale**, RA centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

April 17, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** TBA

May 15, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** TBA

June 3 & 4, 2016 – Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival Celebrate the diversity and beauty of wild blooming native orchids and wildflowers in their unique natural habitat on the Bruce Peninsula. Tobermory, Ontario at Parks Canada Visitor Centre. The events schedule and registration online at: www.orchidfest.ca

June 12, 2016 – OSRBG General Meeting, Room 5. Plant sales commence at 1:00 pm & Meeting to begins at 2:00 pm. **Programme:** General meeting, Member Plant Sales and Strawberry Social. Bring a Strawberry dish or dessert to share ☺

Province creates 2 new provincial parks, 6 new ecological reserves, expands protections for others

By Bryce Hoye, CBC News



Manitoba fens and bogs in St. Labre Bog Ecological Reserve just received new protections from the province. (Manitoba Government)

The Manitoba government has designated a series of new provincial parks and protected areas it says will help preserve native ecosystems and the creatures that inhabit them.

"Protected areas are a reliable and economical way to protect wildlife populations and safeguard pristine areas," Tom Nevakshonoff, Conservation and Water Stewardship minister, said in a statement Tuesday.

"Manitoba is known as a model jurisdiction for its protection standards, and our goal of protecting an additional six per cent of the province by 2020 goes beyond many other jurisdictions' commitments."

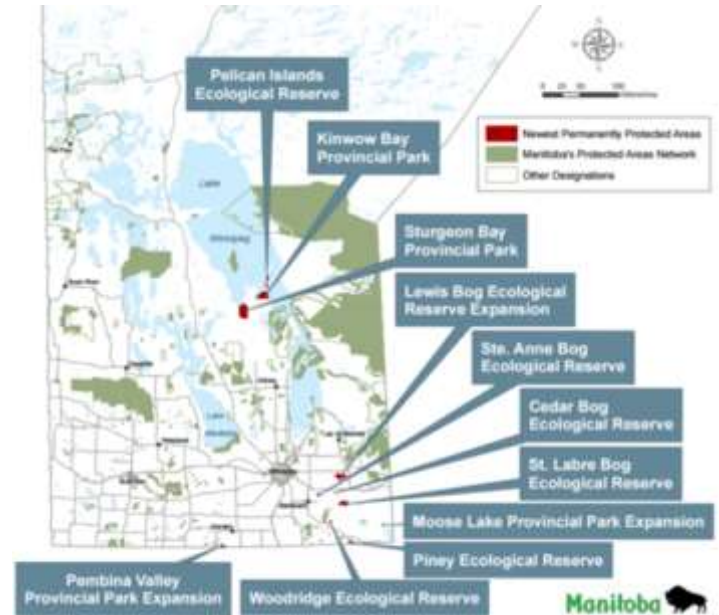
2 new parks

The province has created two new provincial parks and expanded two others.

The new Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park spans almost 14,500 hectares of land, some of which fronts onto Sturgeon Bay on Lake Winnipeg, about 230 kilometres north of Winnipeg. The fresh water ecosystem in and around its shoreline has been deemed important spawning habitat for fish, the province said. Moose call its bogs and mixed-wood forests home, too.

Manitoba wildlife sites gain protection under new strategy
Kinwow Bay Provincial Park, another new addition, takes up about 8,400 hectares of land

The province announced the designation of a series of new parks and



protected ecological reserves Tuesday morning. (Government of Manitoba)

Expanded areas

Two existing parks have also grown in size. Moose Lake Provincial Park in the southeast of the province has been expanded from 956 hectares to 1,049 hectares.

Pembina Valley Provincial Park near the U.S. border has gone from 182 hectares to 672 hectares in part, to protect birds of prey, the province said in a statement. Forested hillsides and areas along the Pembina River serve as an important stop-over for raptors migrating north and south in the spring and fall.

The province added that the new space isn't intended for development, but will remain open for hunting.

Protected habitats

Six new habitats were also designated as "ecological reserves."

Like the Pembina Valley park, the 130-hectare Pelican Islands Ecological Reserve on Lake Winnipeg is important bird habitat. American white pelicans, herring and ring-billed gulls, common terns, double-crested cormorants and the endangered piping plover all set up shop along a strip of six islands in the area during the summer breeding season.

Cedar Bog Ecological Reserve is 105 hectares in size and contains the last existing patch of Cedar bog habitat in Manitoba, the province said. Five of Manitoba's six shrew species call the place home, as do 13 species of orchid native to the province.



Cedar Bog Ecological Reserve is home to the province's last remaining cedar bog. (Government of Manitoba)

What are "ecological reserves"?

Ecological reserves are created in order to protect unique and rare species of plants, animals and geological features throughout the province. The sites are not designed for recreational or resource use; rather they are intended for research, education and preservation purposes.

With the expanded list, the total protected reserve area will grow by 15 per cent, and there is now 30 such areas in the province covering over 800 square kilometres of natural habitat. In comparison, there is just over 35 thousand square kilometres of provincial parks and 4,000 square kilometres of wildlife reserves in Manitoba.

Nestled along the border in the southeast is the 780 hectare Piney Ecological Reserve. The area is home to different kinds of wetlands and a rare butterfly species. Clusters of tamarack trees attract great grey owls to the area, too.

Of all the new parks and reserves, Ste. Anne Bog is the closest to Winnipeg. It takes up 415 hectares and contains prime habitat for rare grasses and sedges. Birds like the American bittern, LeConte's Sparrow, as well as the elusive and (typically) nocturnal yellow rail — which lets out a series of Morse-code-like "ticks" at night — are also found in the area.

The 515-hectare Woodridge Ecological Reserve is located in eastern Manitoba. It was formed as a way of protecting mature cedar trees and a forested spruce bog by the Sand River, the province said. Seventeen species of orchid and lots of dragonfly and bird species are found in the area.

Finally, the Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve, was expanded to protect bogs, swamps and orchid species in the area. The bog, located about 15 kilometres northwest of Hadashville has been increased in size from 570 hectares to 5,240 hectares the province said.

The bog is the last place in the province known to have the ragged fringed orchid.

"Commercial peat harvesting and agricultural activities near Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve have the potential to impact the ecological integrity of the ecological reserve. The expansion will help mitigate the risk to the area and the rare species it supports by affording increased protection to the larger wetland complex," the province said in a statement.

Courtesy of CBC News

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/new-parks-ecological-areas-added-to-manitoba-protection-list-1.3375902>

To Attract Mosquitoes, These Orchids Smell Like People

Bog orchids ensnare mosquitoes with their human-like scent -- so they can get pollinated.

By Sarah Sloat

While humans spend sticky summer months trying to get rid of mosquitoes, a certain sort of orchid is doing all it can to attract them. Known as 'masters of deception,' an orchid's thirst for pollination gets real enough that they'll disguise themselves as a female bee or attempt to smell like rotting meat.

Now, a new study has found that in order to bring all the mosquitoes to their yard, some orchids will do something different altogether: They'll smell like humans.

Sensory biologists have discovered that a particular sort of orchid, the *Platanthera obtusata*, emits an odor that smells like people to attract tiger mosquitoes:



This is a female *Aedes albopictus* "tiger" mosquito.

The flower, a bog orchid that is common in the United States, relies on the mosquito as a pollinator. While humans can barely detect the smell in our own noses, the fragrance — which includes chemicals found in human body odor — stimulates electrical activity in a mosquito's antennae, creating attraction.



The P. obtusata is also known as a blunt-leaved orchid or a small northern bog orchid.

This new research was presented Monday at the 2016 annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. In their presentation, researchers from the University of Washington explained that female mosquitoes don't just feed on blood to produce eggs — they need carbohydrates to sustain their metabolism as well. The mosquitoes head to the orchids to get a carb load, while the orchids rely on the mosquitoes for pollination. But until this discovery, researchers did not know why mosquitoes were compelled to dive into the *P. obtusata*.

After observing mosquitoes hovering about the orchids, the researchers analyzed scent samples from the species and identified which specific compounds of the scents mosquitoes were reacting to by delivering pulses of the chemicals to the insects. The result: Mosquitoes buzzed over to the orchids because of the same chemical components that make them fly to us.

The researchers plan on continuing behavioral tests on the mosquitoes and believe that identification of these chemicals could lead to the creation of new bait for mosquito traps.

Courtesy of Inverse

<https://www.inverse.com/article/9877-to-attract-mosquitoes-these-orchids-smell-like-people>

3-D printed flowers provide insights on how orchids attract pollinators

Released By WILEY

By using 3D printing to make casts for realistic artificial flowers, researchers have discovered how a type of orchid deceives flies into pollinating it, by pretending to be a mushroom.

Dracula lafleuri, a shade-loving, tree-dwelling orchid species of the Ecuadorian Andes, often grows close to mushrooms and resembles them in shape, color, and scent. By producing artificial flowers that were color matched and made of scent-free surgical silicon to which scent could be added, investigators found that a mushroom-scented labellum and a showy, patterned calyx of *Dracula* orchids work together synergistically to exploit the visual and chemical preferences of drosophilid flies.

"*Dracula* orchids are endemic to remote cloud forests making standard approaches challenging. The collaboration between artists and scientists allowed the use of a new technology to elucidate the multi-modal nature of communication in this system," said Dr. Tobias Policha, lead author of the *New Phytologist* article. "3D printing provided an important tool for experimental manipulation of these complex traits under extreme field conditions. Due to the potential uses that we demonstrate here, we suspect that these techniques will soon become widespread."

Courtesy of WILEY

<http://ca.wiley.com/WileyCDA/PressRelease/pressReleaseId-123646.html>



Phalaenopsis Penang Girl
By Drew Goddard

Membership

Memberships were due June 1, 2015.

You can renew you membership at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing your cheque to:

Yvette Mondésir
3010 Silverthorn Drive
Oakville, ON L6L 5N6
e-mail: ydesir521@gmail.com

Membership Fee: \$20.00

Receive a \$5.00 discount if you would like to receive the Orchidata newsletter via e-mail.

Greenhouse Volunteers Needed

As you may know, the Orchid Society maintains the collection of orchids in the RBG greenhouse. This is a significant commitment which cannot be carried out without the help of volunteers.

Currently a group of volunteers meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to noon, more or less, and another group meets on Sunday mornings from about 10 until 12:30. This schedule is dictated by watering requirements. Volunteers are currently being sought for both these teams. "On the job" training is provided if needed.

In addition to watering, volunteers look after repotting the orchids, cleaning any plants that are being attacked by pests, removing dead leaves, sterilizing pots and other equipment, preparing plants for display and many other small but important tasks.

Volunteers are not required to attend every week, but some commitment to the collection should be demonstrated. If you are able to devote some time to helping us maintain the orchids, please contact Pat Vuurman (pvuurman@hotmail.com) regarding the Thursday group, or Denise MacLeod (pmacleod5@cogeco.ca) if you can volunteer on Sundays.

Flasking Group

Anyone interested in flasking please give Ben Boers, Pat Vuurman or Bob Gibbon a call for details

2015 – 2016 Executive & Contacts

- President **Drew Goddard** 905-635-6342
- Past President **Wendy Header-Moan** 905-335-4055
- Vice-President..... **Vacant**
- Treasurer..... **Gavin Clark** 905-274-4888
- Secretary **Jacqui Arrindell** 905-528-1060
- Membership..... **Yvette Mondésir** 905- 825-1472
- Newsletter..... **Jacque Goddard** 905-635-6342
- Publicity..... **Nancy Freckleton** 905- 628-4198
- Native Orchids **Scott Belton** 416-22-6091
- Show Chair..... **Jocelyn Webber** 905- 823-6815
- Sales & Raffle **Penelope Petrie** 905-383-3558
- Programming **Lauren Booklin** 289- 837-1462
- COC Rep **Peter Decyk** 905-632-1985
- AOS/Mid-American Rep..... **Peter Decyk** 905-632-1985
- Hospitality **Greta Culley** 905-648-0144
- Librarian **Wendy Header-Moan** 905-335-4055
- Flasking **Bob Gibbon** 905-387-1993
- Orchid Collection..... **Olga Jokutaitis** 905-544-9894
- Orchid Collection..... **Pat Vuurman** 905-527-4951
- RBG Liaison..... **Ben Boers** 905-701-8102

Honorary Lifetime Member

Dr. James Brasch

Membership and Address Changes

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Orchidata

**Deadline for the March / April Newsletter is
March 7, 2016**

Please note that Orchidata news and orchid society newsletters should be sent to:

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Burlington, ON L7P 3K4
e-mail: krackerjac@hotmail.com
