



# Sparrow's Egg Lady's-Slipper

The Sparrow's Egg Lady's-slipper is also known as the Northern Lady's-slipper and Franklin's Lady's-slipper, the latter name given because of its discovery during the Franklin Expedition in 1820.

There are two distinctions that separate this orchid from other species of cypripedium: it is the only type that self-pollinates, and it has the most northern range in North America.

From a base of slight rhizomes, this orchid grows up to 35 cm in height. Each stem is enveloped by three to five lance-shaped leaves (up to 15 cm long) and usually one or two blooms. Leaves are covered with fine hairs and are slightly tacky, as are the stems.

A leafy bract stands behind the inflorescence. The flower has faint-green sepals, white petals, and the white sac (15 to 18 mm long) is peppered with magenta spots around the opening. The dorsal sepal, suspended over the sac, nearly conceals the opening.

The seed capsule is small and begins development prior to the flower withering.

Flowers can be found from late June to early August.

In Manitoba, the Sparrow's Egg Lady's-slipper prefers the habitats of the open tundra around Churchill, as well as the bogs and spruce forests of the northern part of the province.

Colonies of this plant fare better in the more sheltered locations of forests, as opposed to the open barrens. Because this orchid's survival rate depends on its frail environment, care should be taken to keep its habitat pristine.



Sparrow's Egg Lady's-slipper  
*Cypripedium Passerinum*  
Photo by Bud Ewacha

(C.N.P.S.) Conserve Native  
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**Please remember to renew  
your membership.**



## Conserve Native Plants Society Makes a Good Impression at the Orchid Society Show

On the March 28th weekend, Conserve Native Plants Society hosted a display at the Manitoba Orchid Society's 2008 Annual Show, held at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory.

On hand to engage and educate was CNPS's President, Bud Ewacha, who answered questions and concerns for attending orchid fans, throughout the three day event. He was especially pleased to make the acquaintance of an orchid lover from Poland, who stated that the CNPS display was excellent!

In spite of lower attendance at this year's show, CNPS's display got a lot of attention and favourable comments from passersby. CNPS's guest book contained 150 signatures and comments ranging from how informative the display is to praise on the quality of the photos. Most comments, though, reflect how awestruck people become once they've realized what natural treasure is within our own reach.

### 2008 CNPS Field Trip Schedule

Please note the following schedule for planned CNPS field trips.

**Saturday, May 31** - Brokenhead Wetlands and Belair Provincial Forest  
Dragon's Mouth Orchid, Moccasin Flower and many other orchids.

**Saturday, June 14** - Woodridge Area  
Showy Lady's-slippers, Small Round-leaved Orchids, Blunt-leaved Orchid, and other native plants.

**Saturday, June 28** - Agassiz Forest Reserve  
Rose Pegonia, Tall Leafy Green Orchid, Loesel's Twayblade, Wood Lilies and more.

**Saturday, July 26** - Trans-Canada East  
Milkweed, Cactus, Iron Weed, Lilies and other native plants.

Field trips are limited to members of CNPS and their families. There will be a \$10 charge to cover the costs of these field trips, and you may have to sign a liability waiver. Please use your own discretion as to whether you are able to participate depending on the degree of difficulty walking. We do not make any guarantees that you will see every plant mentioned in bloom, but we do guarantee an interesting and informative hike with wonderful people, plants and animals to meet. If interested, please contact Bud Ewacha as early as possible at 253-4741.

Please dress suitably for the weather, as we intend to go rain or shine. Hats, lunches, sun-screen and drinking water are strongly recommended. You will be notified if a trip has to be cancelled for any reason.