



(C.N.P.S.)
CONSERVE NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY INC.

Volume 2

Fall 2003



Exciting Natural Hybrid Native Orchid Discovered in Manitoba

A potentially new natural hybrid specimen has been discovered in southeastern Manitoba. This flower, identified by Bud Ewacha, who found it with Clifford Grawberger and Agnes Ryckman, appears to be a cross between *Cypripedium calceolus* (perhaps var. *planipetalum*) and *Cypripedium reginae*. The closest related natural hybrid is *Cypripedium Genesis* (*reginae* x *pubescens*) identified by Carson Whitlow, a photo of which can be seen at http://www.w-frosch.onlinehome.de/menu_eh1.htm.

President's Report

This summer has been extremely busy. We have worked hard at increasing our membership and now have over 100 members. We are pleased to announce that Morag Belliveau is now Membership Chairperson.

Events taken place:

- Bud attended the "Second Annual International Native Orchid Conference" from June 14-15, 2003, at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. (see following report)

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Annual General Meeting
April
Year runs from April 1 to March 30

Board Meeting
Nov. 12th
7:30 p.m.
at

35 St. Michael's Rd
Members are welcome to attend all
meetings.

- Some members attended a field trip to Gull Lake Wetlands in July to view various orchid species and other native plants.
- Another field trip in July to Buffalo Point and surrounding areas provided members with interesting information on native plants including Western Fringed Orchid. A highlight of the trip was witnessing the Monarch Butterfly larvae on milkweed plants.

Projects:

- This summer Bud was given permission by Premier Horticulture to seed Cypripediums in Giroux. We are hoping to begin this fall as soon as the seeds are ready in an area that has been restored. Other native plants will also be seeded this fall.
- Plans are underway to begin the next seeding in Elma with Sungrow Horticulture in the fall of 2004.
- Work is ongoing with Brokenhead Indian Reserve to save Gull Lake Wetlands.
- Preservation of various native plants at Buffalo Point Reserve is continuing.
- Southeast Timber Sales Project - In August the largest area of Sweetflag in Manitoba was found in the southern part of the province and we are hoping to get this area set aside. Sweetflag has many medical purposes and the preservation of this plant is extremely important.
- Brochures produced and available for distribution:
 - ◆ **Mission Statement (C.N.P.S.)**
 - ◆ **Seeding Cypripedium Species Project**
 - ◆ **Save the Gull Lake Wetlands Project**
 - ◆ **Pathology in Cypripediums Project**

SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE

June 14-15, 2003

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Organized by David McAdoo of North Carolina, the week-end conference was packed with notable, published experts on native orchids, innumerable slides of orchids in bloom in their native habitats, and an over-riding concern for preservation of fluctuating habitats and populations of these same orchids.

Paul Catling's address as keynote speaker considered the rarity and habitat range of orchids in the Bruce Peninsula. Many of these orchids could be viewed in the ensuing three day (June 16-18) caravan of interested delegates to Red Bay, Tobermory, and Flowerpot Island in Georgian Bay at the conclusion of the conference. Paul noted how native orchids, such a well known and studied plant family, have become "bio-indicators" for all flora in North America. By studying orchid populations, scientists are able to make predictions about more generalized and lesser-known groups of plants. Since there are seven "at risk" and one "extirpated" orchid in Canada, experts project that 10% of the total flora of our country are also "at risk".

Presentations on Saturday included "Exploring The Bruce and Its Native Orchids" (Dr. Paul Catling, research scientist with Agriculture Canada); "The Good, The Bad and the Ugly - A User's Guide to Flora of North America" (Dr. Charles Sheviak, Albany, N.Y.); "Orchids of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont" (Shirley Curtis, Rollinsford, NH); "Introduced Populations of Dactylorhiza in North America and Orchids of Newfoundland" (Susan Meades, Sault Ste. Marie, ON); "Management issues related to providing ecotype that will continue to support native orchids and their habitats at Zurich Bog" (Lee and Barb Drake, East Bloomfield, NY and Mona Ryerson, Newark, NY).

Dr. Sheviak's overview of Flora of North America noted that the publication was first begun, then abandoned in the 1840's. Its publication in 2002, after 14 years of research, has been seriously compromised by frequent changes in editors' directions to researchers considering scope, research guidelines, etc., and by the mapping done by editors in isolation from those conducting the research.

That evening's program continued with another presentation by Drake and Ryerson: "Conservation and Management issues for Bergen Swamp's rare ecotypes and its native orchids". Zurich Bog and Bergen Swamp are located east and west of Rochester, NY and are threatened by encroaching civilization, adjacent mud farming and fluctuating water levels.

Saturday evening's programming ended with "A Potpourri of Pulchritude" (Carl Slaughter, Morrilton, AK) and an hour long photography workshop led by Ron Coleman, Shirley Curtis, and Hal Horowicz.

Sunday's first speaker was Fred Case of Saginaw, MI: "North American Terrestrial Orchids - Adaptations, Plant Distributions, and Conservation Issues". Fred provided a geology lesson tracing the retreat of the last glaciers in North America. The advance and retreat of the last ice age were used to explain the present pockets and habitats of our native orchid populations. Fred further encouraged the delegates to "hunt for your own native terrestrial orchids", as many he has personally identified have been "outside" the known habitat areas.

Further presentations on Sunday included: "Wild Orchids of California (Ron Coleman, Tucson, AZ); "Pollination of the Western Fringed Orchid in the Tall Grass Prairie of Southeast Manitoba" (Lorne Heshka, Winnipeg, MB); "A European's Encounter with the Orchids of Newfoundland" (Simon Andrew, Crewkerne, UK) and "In Praise of Native Orchids" (Hal Horowitz, Richmond, VA).

During Saturday and Sunday, motions were passed to formally structure this group of native orchid enthusiasts into a non-profit organization with membership dues (\$25 US), a periodical newsletter and an annual conference. Speakers from both the First and Second conferences were encouraged to submit their text for publication in the first publication to be mailed out to the membership, probably in early 2004.

Submitted by

Charlotte Moore,

Chair, Native Orchid Study Group

Past President, Orchid Society of Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, ON

Orchid Field Trip to Petersons' Reed Lake Lodge

Situated in Grassy River Provincial Park, Northern Manitoba, the Peterson's fishing lodge is a small family owned and operated business. Three generations have served the area, serving prospectors, traders, guides and now people interested in fishing.

Bud Ewacha was invited to visit and enjoy the many interesting native plants. During the visit, Bud was able to explore and discover the wealth of native flora and fauna. He was most excited to discover native orchids such as *Cypripedium acaule*, *Calypso bulbosa*, and *Spiranthes* species. A heartfelt thank you to the entire Peterson family for their warm and gracious hospitality and specifically to Mrs. Katherine Peterson, her daughter, Christa, and her son Hal for taking Bud on a guided tour of the many unique plants in this area.