

# Native Orchid News:

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Lorne Heshka

Typical *A. rotundifolia*, Libau Bog

## Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

117 Morier Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2M 0C8

### NOCI Website:

[www.nativeorchid.org](http://www.nativeorchid.org)

For more information contact

Doris Ames.

Phone: 231-1160

E-mail: [adames@mts.net](mailto:adames@mts.net)

### Field Trips 2008

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### Plant of the Month

Small Round-leaved Orchid

(*Amerorchis rotundifolia*)



Ian Ward

Forma *wardii*, Libau Bog



Lorne Heshka

Forma *rosea*, Churchill



Lorne Heshka

Intermediate colour, Churchill



Lorne Heshka

Forma *lineata*, Churchill



Lorne Heshka

Flower with "entire" lip, Churchill

## Plant of the Month

Small Round-leaved Orchid (*Amerorchis rotundifolia* (Banks))

by Lorne Heshka

Manitoba is an excellent location to view *Amerorchis rotundifolia*. The range of this species in our province extends from the south-east - northward to the border with Nunavut. With a network of provincial highways extending as far north as Gillam, and a rail line continuing to Churchill, a wide range of populations of this species is readily available for observation.

The preferred habitats of the small round-leaved orchid include moist, often calcareous coniferous forests, fens, and tundra. Blooming begins in early June in the cool, moist, bogs and fens in the southern extent of its range and continues into late July on the sub-arctic tundra.

Flowering plants vary in size from a mere 10cm on the tundra, to 25 cm in its southern range; with an inflorescence of one to fifteen blossoms. Typically each flower is from 9 to 12mm in size. The lateral sepals are white, with purplish-pink dorsal sepals and petals that together form a hood over the lip. The lip is white, three-lobed, and is spotted with purple.

With perseverance and good fortune, astute observers in our province may discover flowers of this species that differ from the “typical”. These distinct individuals have been botanically described and assigned a “form” designation:

*beckettiae* (Boivin) Hultén (white-flowered form) - white dorsal sepals and petals, white lateral sepals, white lip without spots. This form was reported from Churchill in 1954 and although a number of very pale flowers have been reported since that time, all of these have had a spotted lip.

*lineata* (Mousley) Hultén (lined-lip form) - broad, longitudinal purple stripes on the lip versus the typical spots. This widespread form was first reported in 1941, at Elkwater Lake, Alberta. In 2005 two sites were discovered in Manitoba. The first site was observed by Bill Hildebrand and Trish Sherrer near Swan River while the second site was discovered at Churchill by a group led by the author.

*rosea* P.M. Brown (rose-colored form) - deep rose dorsal sepals and petals, deep rose lateral sepals, white lip with rose spots. Initially reported in Newfoundland in 1997, the holotype photograph was taken by the author at Churchill, Manitoba in 2003.

*wardii* P.M. Brown - purplish-pink sepals and petals, lateral sepals white, lip white with a misting of fine spots that appears as a blush. Discovered and photographed in 1999 by Ian Ward in the Libau Bog. This is an unusually attractive form, and has not been reported elsewhere in North America.

For those adventurous individuals who have braved the hordes of mosquitoes and black flies in search of the small round-leaved orchid at Churchill, it is not surprising to learn that several different color forms exist here. Aside from the described color forms; *beckettiae*, *lineata*, and *rosea*, many plants have been observed with flowers in intermediate variations to these named forms. Flowers with blotches of color on the lip along with spots, some with very pale flowers and little of the characteristic purple or mauve coloration of the sepals and petals, while others have a unique lip shape. Although the typical three-lobed lip is common at Churchill, many blossoms have an unlobed lip which has not been reported from southern Manitoba populations.

The Churchill population of this orchid is highly variable and each time we visit this fascinating region, we leave wondering not “if” but “when” other forms of *Amerorchis rotundifolia* will be discovered there.

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# President's Report

By Doris Ames

Native Orchid Conservation Inc celebrated it's tenth anniversary on April 15, 2008 and we have prepared this special edition of the Native Orchid News to celebrate our achievement.

Our annual general meeting on February 15, 2008 was well attended and I think everyone enjoyed the special cake, our new EKO dvd and Nora Reid's excellent presentation entitled "Artistry in Nature". Elections were held on that date and the following people were elected to the board by acclamation:

Doris Ames	President
John Neufeld	Vice-president
Huguette Calvez	Secretary
Iris Reimer	Treasurer and Fieldtrip Coordinator
Richard Reeves	Newsletter
Eugene Reimer	Webmaster
Peggy Bainard Acheson	Membership

More details about that evening can be found in Peggy's report elsewhere in this newsletter.

We enjoyed attending the Manitoba Orchid Society's Orchid Show March 28-30 and I was especially pleased to see the beautiful yellow and showy lady's-slippers in bloom in time for the show. Lorne Heshka did a marvellous job bringing these lab propagated native orchids into flower for the occasion. I think they were as pretty as any that I have seen growing in the wild. It is wonderful to know that many of our beautiful native orchids can be grown from seed and purchased from Canadian nurseries. We can enjoy them in our gardens now without having to dig them up from the wild. We met many friends, old and new, at the show and were very pleased to win first prize for our educational display, "Manitoba Orchids; Beauty in Diversity"

We have planned more field trips for this summer with new destinations among them as well as a Wildflower Festival at Carrick and a Fall Flower Festival in Senkiw. The list is included in this issue. Hope to see you in the field!

P.S. Be sure to sign up now while there is still room as we do limit the number of people we take to some of these locations.

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## Plant of the Month References:

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# Had Cake – Ate it, Too!

By Peggy Bainard Acheson

NOCI was pleased to celebrate the milestone of our tenth year in operation with the 53 members and guests who came out to share it with us on February 15, 2008 at our Annual General Meeting. After the business meeting and elections, we very much enjoyed our featured speaker Nora Reid, who shared her thoughts about nature and artistry with us and brought so many wonderful examples of her paintings and sketchbooks. We also celebrated with our usual raffles and silent auction, and our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who donated (list below). Thanks to Adrian Ames for conducting the silent auction and raffle. I think everyone had fun participating and winning such wonderful prizes.

As the Nominations Chair, John Neufeld conducted the election. The four board-member positions were filled by acclamation, and we are pleased to announce that Doris Ames, Huguette Calvez, Richard Reeves, and Eugene Reimer will continue to serve on the board.

We also took time in our jam-packed program to show the exciting new video called EKO, about the Brokenhead Wetland. We apologize for the poor sound quality. Anyone interested in seeing the video can view it at <http://www.debwendon.org/Vid01-EKO.htm>, or alternatively you can buy it online at our website or contact Huguette Calvez. The video features the wetland and its broader importance to the community.

In honour of our anniversary we had a special treat this year – a beautiful cake adorned with a picture of Moccasin Flowers (courtesy Lorne Heshka) on the top.

Winners of the silent auction and raffle prizes were:

Doris Ames	Ami Bakerman	Anita Cauldwell	John Dyck
Helen Fairbanks	Mike James	Dawn Kitching	Harley Krogh
Marcelle Marion	Christiane Neufeld	Birnie Reid	Eugene Reimer
Alec Robson	Jim Roy	Eva Slavicek	Mary Smith
Cindy Vogt	Diane Zuk		

Thanks to all prize donors who were:

Nancy Allan	Adrian Ames	Doris Ames	Peggy Bainard Acheson
Ami Bakerman	Ardythe Basham	Bill Belcher	Huguette Calvez
Anita Cauldwell	Mike James	Yvonne Lozinski	Marcelle Marion
Judy Moxley	John Neufeld	Richard Reeves	Marie Ann Reeves
Nora Reid	Eugene Reimer	Iris Reimer	Kelly-Anne Richmond
Eva Slavicek	Bep Vanderwoude	Mary Wiebe	
Friends of Assiniboine Park Conservatory			

Thanks to all the Board members, and friends and family for all your help to set up and take down and for helping to make this our tenth anniversary another enjoyable AGM!



## NOCI Field Trips 2008 Anniversary Year

**Sat May 3** - Hadashville, East Braintree - crocus, eastern bloodroot, trailing arbutus and other spring flowers. Manitoba Forestry Association open house at Hadashville that day. Have lunch on the banks of the Whitemouth River near their picturesque suspension bridge.

**Sat May 17** - Steep Rock - crocuses, limestone cliffs and underwater caves on Lake Manitoba. Some of the most spectacular scenery this side of Greece!

**Sat May 31** - Mike James property north of Grand Beach - co-sponsored by Woodlot Association of Manitoba - theme: woodlands, wetlands, wildflowers - NOCI interpreted walk on woodlot trails, displays, entertainment, food and networking.

**Sat June 7** - Belair Provincial Forest - moccasin flowers, pipsissewa, wintergreen, butterflies and birds - lunch and guided tour on trails and suspension bridge along Brokenhead River on the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

**Sat June 14** - Mt. Nebo near Miami - hike a trail around the base of this hill on the Manitoba Escarpment. The unusual understory consists of huge basswood, oak and birch, wild grape, spotted coral root and yellow lady's-slippers growing around the creek bed. 80 million year old marine fossils are found in the bentonite deposits. A spectacular view of the surrounding farmland is available to those who wish to climb up the spiral path to the top of the hill.

**Sat June 21** - Carrick, Woodridge bog - Carrick Wildflower Festival - co-sponsored by Carrick Community Club - NOCI interpreted field trip to see many other kinds of native orchids and wildflowers in Woodridge bog. Lunch in Carrick at 100 year old school. Presentations on local history, native orchids, summer solstice. Tour of oriental garden by members Keith Seidel and Aileen Huss includes 2 labyrinths.

**Sat June 28** - Brokenhead Wetlands - rare cedar forest and rich fen - late orchids and carnivorous plants. One of the most spectacular wetlands in Manitoba.

**Sat Aug 23** - Fall Flower Festival in Senkiw, Manitoba with CWT (Franklin section). Walk on riparian trails along Rousseau River on the Jim and Marcella Towle property and on the Crow Wing Trail on Rousseau Rapids First Nation - butterflies and fall flowers including gentians, ladies tresses orchids including the endangered Great Plains Ladies tresses, sunflowers, coneflower, false indigo, wild vines and many kinds of goldenrod, Joe Pye weed and asters including the rare Western Silvery Aster. Lunch outdoors in Rousseau River Park.



Woodridge field trip 2003



On Hadashville suspension bridge 2003



Heather Reeves



Tenth anniversary cake at AGM 2008

Heather Reeves



NOCI Board at AGM 2008

Heather Reeves



Nora Reid giving presentation at AGM 2008

Richard Reeves



Sandilands Selective Cutting Project

Richard Reeves



Announcing Brokenhead Ecological Reserve 2005

Peggy Bainard Acheson



Setting a protective cage for seed bank project 2006

Courtesy of NOCI



NOCI Argo (amphibious ATV)

Eugene Reimer



Book Committee meeting 2005