

Native Orchid News:

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Lorne Heshka

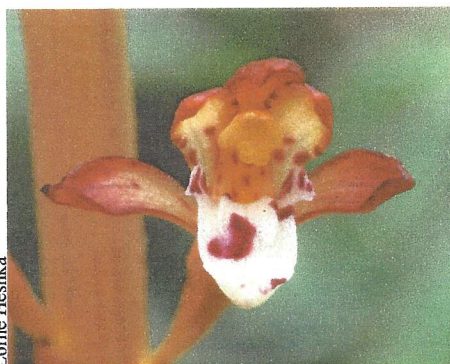
C. maculata var. *occidentalis*



Lorne Heshka

C. maculata var. *occidentalis*

Notice the difference in the labella (lips) in the two pictures above.



Lorne Heshka

C. maculata var. *maculata*



Lorne Heshka

C. maculata var. *occidentalis*



Lorne Heshka

C. maculata var. *maculata*

Notice the difference in the floral bracts in the two pictures above.

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Field Trips

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Plant of the Month

Spotted Coralroot

(*Corallorhiza maculata*)

President's Report

By
Doris Ames

Spring is here at last. Prairie crocus and Siberian elm trees are blooming and Manitoba maples have their first delicate flowers and lacy green leaves. We have an exciting summer ahead of us.

Our Annual General Meeting on February 24 was well attended and a new board was elected at that time. Please see the list of new board members elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Manitoba Orchid Society Orchid Show was a great success with many beautiful and unusual orchids on display. NOCI won first prize in educational exhibits for our "Creation of the Ladyslipper" display. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to make our display a success and to all the members that came out to see our display at the show. Lorne Heska also had an excellent educational display on Coral roots at the MOS orchid show and has contributed an interesting article based on his research for our newsletter this month.

We were also delighted to hear that NOCI will be receiving the Premier's Volunteer Service Award in the Community category at the 23rd Annual Volunteer Awards Dinner, on April 26, 2006 in Winnipeg. My sincere thanks to our nominator Ken Friesen, executive director of the C.P. Loewen Family Foundation, and to all the board members and volunteers whose hard work made it possible for us to receive this award.

Native Orchid Conservation Inc. in conjunction with the staff at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre will be holding an orchid festival at Oak Hammock on Saturday and Sunday June 3 and 4. There will be orchid-related fun and activities for the whole family including slide shows, videos and displays about wetlands, native orchids and other rare plants as well as exotic orchid displays and sales. Children will be delighted with the activities planned by the professional staff at Oak Hammock. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for a special interpreted tour of the Brokenhead Wetlands which is home to 28 species of native orchids and many other beautiful and rare plant species. The trip, to be held on Saturday, June 24, will include transportation from Winnipeg, a naturalist-guided hike through the wetlands, a day pass for the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and a personalized souvenir of your visit. Don't miss it!!

We have another full season of field trips to look forward to, starting Saturday, May 6, with trips to some different locations again this year. Please see the complete list elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you in the field!

Plant of the Month

Spotted Coralroot *Corallorhiza maculata* (Rafinesque) Rafinesque

By Lorne Heshka

The range of *C. maculata* in Manitoba extends from the U.S. border in the south, to a line drawn in an east-west orientation approximately 850 km to the north. Habitats vary from deciduous forests and mixed coniferous/deciduous forests to predominantly coniferous forests - usually jackpine. A reasonably dry substrate is the one element that is common through all habitats. Provincial parks like Turtle Mountains, Duck Mountains and Birds Hill provide excellent habitat for this orchid.

C. maculata, like other coralroot orchids, does not produce green leaves like most plants. They are "mycoheterotrophic" receiving their nutrition from other plants by way of specific mycorrhizal fungi. The plant lives underground as a rhizome, sending leafless flowering stems above ground during appropriate seasons.

Although it was noted that there were distinct differences in blooming times between populations of this species, it wasn't until 1997, that Dr. John Freudenstein completed a comprehensive study of this species. In his published report, he described two distinct varieties of *Corallorhiza maculata*: variety *occidentalis* (western spotted coralroot) and variety *maculata* (spotted coralroot). He noted that var. *maculata* bloomed from one to four weeks later than var. *occidentalis*.

Morphologically these varieties can be separated by careful examination of the flowering stem with a magnifying glass or loupe. The distinguishing features are found primarily in the floral bracts and the labellum (lip) of the flower.

The floral bracts of var. *occidentalis* are 1 to 4mm long, 1 to 2 mm wide and are usually forked. The floral bracts of var. *maculata* are 0.5 to 1 mm long, 0.5 to 0.9 mm wide and are usually entire. The labellum of var. *occidentalis* is strongly dilated with the ratio of widest width to base width greater than 1.5. The labellum of var. *maculata* may be slightly dilated or non-dilated having parallel sides with the ratio of widest width to base width less than 1.5.

Both varieties of *C. maculata* are found in our province. Variety *occidentalis* is considered common, while variety *maculata* is very rare. The author has found only one location for variety *maculata* in Manitoba. In contrast, more than 50 sites of variety *occidentalis* have been encountered. Dr. John Freudenstein, has referenced two specimens of variety *maculata* collected in Manitoba. One location is in the Grand Rapids area in central Manitoba, the other at Riding Mountain National Park in western Manitoba. A photograph of variety *maculata*, taken in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park by Ian Ward, appears in the book "Orchids of Manitoba - a field guide".

The Manitoba herbarium specimens reported by Dr. Freudenstein were collected in bloom in August which agrees with the general consensus held in eastern North America - that this species blooms later than var. *occidentalis*. However, specimens photographed by both the author and Ward (personal communication) were found blooming coincidentally with var. *occidentalis* observed in the same area. The blooming date of var. *occidentalis* in Manitoba extends from mid-June to mid-July.

Variety *occidentalis* throughout its range in Manitoba, has been observed in several colour forms. These include: stem, petals and sepals flesh coloured, the lip white, spotted with purple; stem, petals and sepals red, the lip white, spotted with purple; stem, petals and sepals yellow, the lip white, unspotted. Intermediate colour forms have been observed as well.

Variety *maculata*, based on the limited number of specimens observed in the province, have all had flesh coloured petals and sepals, and a white lip spotted with purple.

Native Orchid Conservation 2006 Field Trip Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 6 - Old Dawson Road, Hadashville, East Braintree - pine forests and spring flowers including Crocus, Coltsfoot, Marigolds, Bloodroot and Trailing arbutus among others. We will have lunch at the Manitoba Forestry Association's Sandilands Forest Interpretive Centre near Hadashville on the Whitemouth River.

SATURDAY, MAY 27 - Tall Grass Prairie Preserve in Tolstoi and the Franklin Crow Wing Trail on the beautiful Roseau River - the endangered Small white lady's-slipper and other tall-grass-prairie plants in the Preserve and many unusual plant species along the CWT trail through the riparian zone along the river. The lovely and historic suspension bridge is a photographer's delight. NEW

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 - Woodridge - cedar bog - a perennial favourite with orchid lovers - more than a dozen native orchid species can be found in the lush habitat. The lady's-slippers are especially beautiful and include the rare Ram's-head lady's-slipper (our smallest slipper orchid). Many other species like the Round-leaved rein-orchid and the rare Hooker's rein-orchid should also be in bloom.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 - Brokenhead Wetlands and Belair - see one of Manitoba's rarest wetlands - home to 28 species of native orchids and other rare plants and one of Manitoba's newest ecological reserves. Then carry on to see the pretty Moccasin flowers growing among the fresh pines in Belair Provincial Forest.

SATURDAY, JULY 8 - south of East Braintree on #308 - coniferous bog - Grass pink, Pitcher plants - Forestry Rd#4 - Yellow lady's-slippers and Showy lady's-slippers, and a profusion of wood lilies, other summer flowers and butterflies. NEW

Iris Reimer is our new field trip coordinator. Please contact Iris at 475-9878 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:irhymer@shaw.ca"](mailto:irhymer@shaw.ca) irhymer@shaw.ca if you would like to join us on one of our trips. We take a limited number of participants to some of the locations with more delicate habitat, so register early. There is a charge of \$10.00 per adult, or \$5.00 per child under 18, to cover costs, and you will be required to sign a liability waiver. You must be a member of NOCI to join us on these trips. Please use your discretion as to whether you are able to participate depending on the degree of difficulty walking. Iris can advise you. Most trips are suitable for any healthy adult. Our field-trip leaders are all amateur naturalists with field experience. We can't guarantee that you will see every plant we mention but you will see many different plants and animals and you will certainly meet interesting people. Please dress suitably for the weather as we intend to go rain or shine. Hats, drinking water, a bag lunch, and insect repellent are strongly recommended. Please let Iris know if you have room for extra passengers in your car. Many of our members do not have a car available to them but love to come on these outings. We will arrange to meet at a place in the city that is on a bus route before we set off on the field trip. You will be notified if we have to cancel the trip for some reason.

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

2006 AGM Report

By Peggy Bainard Acheson

NOCI's eighth Annual General Meeting was attended by 35 members and five guests on Friday, February 24, 2005 at the Dakota Lawn Bowls Club.

NOCI President Doris Ames gave the President's report of our many projects and activities in 2005, including the declaration of the Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve and the publication of our book, *The Orchids of Manitoba*. Following the business meeting, election proceedings were led by Nominations Chair, John Neufeld. The election results included re-election of board members Doris Ames, Eugene Reimer and Richard Reeves and the election of Huguette Calvez to the board. – Welcome Huguette!

Our guest speaker this year was David Danyluk, coordinator of Save Our Seine, who presented a glimpse of a Winnipeg treasure through his slide presentation called "Mapography and Making a Map of it All: *The Seine River Greenway Map Project 2005*." Referring to himself as a "mapographer" David is indeed very knowledgeable about the many charms of this old river that meanders through the southeast part of Winnipeg. The recently produced map of the Seine is a visual treat of the natural and historical attractions of the river.

Following David's presentation, the silent auction, raffle, and door prize draw were held and winners were:

John Neufeld	Karen Burridge	Peter Klassen
Huguette Calvez	Kelly Ann Richmond	Peggy Bainard Acheson
Bep Vanderwoude	Birnie Reid	Yvonne Lozinski
Chris Neufeld	Peter Klassen	Mary Wiebe
Richard Reeves		

Congratulations to all the winners!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this another fun and successful evening!

Your 2006 board of directors is as follows:

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