

March News 2011

OSNS March General Meeting is on Sunday March 13th at 2:00pm the Keshan Goodman Library at 330 Lacewood Drive, meeting room C.



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 The O.S.N.S. was founded in 1981 and incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act.
 Website: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/Orchidsns/>

March General Meeting.

The Sunday meeting on March 13th will be a slide show by Gail Schwarz of her orchid trip to Guatemala last November. I love being able to travel to these places through pictures. Maybe some day I'll get to go and see for myself how wonderful it is with all the native orchids growing wild.

ALSO...Inside this month.

-Check out our [book review section](#) to see a great book for the orchid enthusiast that thinks they need a greenhouse to grow orchids and doesn't have one.

-Or have a look at our Farmer's Almanac section this month for a sticky surprise! It includes a [great recipe](#) with Maple Syrup. March is the season for maple syrup so we might as well enjoy it to the max!

-And don't forget the "[NEW ORCHID GROWERS SECTION](#)"

*The stormy March is come at last,
 With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
 I hear the rushing of the blast
 That through the snowy valley flies.*

—William Cullen Bryant, American poet (1794–1878)

Above quote from www.almanac.com

Cover Picture of a gorgeous cymbidium from the Wolfville spring show 2011, photo by Linda MacDonald.

OSNS Executive & Committees 2008/2009

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March General Meeting.

The March meeting will be at the Keshan Goodman Library on Sunday the 13th at 2pm. Hope to see everyone there as I am counting on the weather being much better this month. Let's hope I'm right. Be sure to bring your flowering orchids for the display table and maybe you can add to your collection with something from Dave Latter's sales table. If you want any potting supplies, or even a particular plant, be sure to give him a call and he will bring exactly what you are looking for. Or, you can just see if there is anything new that takes your eye at the meeting. Gail's slide show of her trip to Guatemala should be another wonderful break from our winter weather and make us all want to travel to see orchids. See you at the meeting.

Member's Corner:

The Wolfville show in February was spectacular as always. Driving out was a bit of an adventure but the ride home was fine as the sun had cleared all the roads. The weather was a bit of an issue and it likely prevented some members from venturing out for the day. As a result the participation was lower than previous years resulting in fewer plants coming from outside of the valley area, but the plants on display were the best of the best. The cymbidiums stole the show with their arching stems of many different coloured flowers, but that's not to say the other species of orchids were not spectacular as well. All the orchids looked fabulous and made us dream of warmer days. With the sun streaming in the atrium, it was hard to believe it was so cold and snowy outside. It was a great way to spend a cold February day, in the sunshine with flowers. Those who didn't make it, missed out.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to the members of the Wolfville Orchid Growers for supplying a wonderful lunch in the break room. The food was most welcome by those who made it down and absolutely delicious. You did a great job folks, as always.

The Orchid Society of Nova Scotia now has a page on facebook. If you want to check it out, the link is below. Have a look and see what you think. Bill Bruhm set it up and maybe it will help us get some new members interested in joining our society.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchid-Society-of-Nova-Scotia/101539916572332?ref=ts#!/pages/Orchid-Society-of-Nova-Scotia/101539916572332?v=wall&ref=ts>

Wolfville Show





Wild Orchids of Nova Scotia

Spring is in the air and we will soon be time to go out in the field and find the orchids as they start another year of wonderful blooming.

John MacDonald is in charge of updates on the wild orchids of Nova Scotia and if you wish to get on the mailing list just send him a note and he will include you when he sends out his updates. You can contact him at whitey@eastlink.ca



Library of the OSNS –The library lists are available to view on our website if you misplaced the lists from the October and November 09newsletters. It will be updated regularly. Please feel free to contact John MacDonald if you want to have him bring any books or periodical magazines to the next meeting so you may check them out to take home and read. You can contact him at whitey@eastlink.ca

Dates to Remember:

(Below Dates taken from January 2010 issue of the COC.)

2011

- **March 3-6:** Victoria Orchid Society Show in the Student Union Building, University of Victoria. Show Chair is Svend Munk-holm redvikingorchids@telus.net. "http://victoriaorchidsociety.ca/"
- **March 19-20:** London Orchid Society at the North London Op-timist Community Centre, 1345 Cheapside Street at Highbury, London, Ontario "http://los.lon.imag.net/"
- **March 25-27:** The Manitoba Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. For more information, email: secondvp@manitobaorchidsociety.ca "http://manitobaorchidsociety.ca/index.php"
- **April 23-24:** The Ottawa Orchid Society Show at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean, Ontario. Contact Dave Cooper (613-256-2853; orchidae@storm.ca) "http://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com">

International Shows

- **Nov 14-23/2011:** 20th WOC Singapore 2011 "Where New and Old World Orchids Meet". Start planning now. <http://www.20woc.com.sg/site/>



Things to take note of:

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

April - The Spring Show is confirmed for the 15(setup)-17 of April. We will need all the help we can get.

May – an open house at Paul and Juta Cabio’s greenhouse.

June – is our annual AGM after two open house visits of our member’s greenhouses.

Summer Picnic/Meeting – Date TBA depending on guest speaker.



Farmer’s Almanac Wit and Wisdom

(Articles and information below found at www.almanac.com)

Welcoming March

The Romans made March the first month of the year. Indeed, it often is a month of firsts—the first daffodil, robin, earthworm, skunk, cabbage.

Spring itself starts with the vernal equinox on March 20.

March is notoriously temperamental weatherwise. According to weather proverbs:

If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.

If March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion.

The month is alive with fast-moving weather systems and record-breaking storms, such as the blizzard of 1888, which paralyzed the East Coast.



*Sugar's sweet, but sap is sappier;
Cold nights make the farmers happier!*

–*The Old Farmer's Almanac*, 1989

Out here in the country, March means mud and maple syrup, skeins of migrating geese, and spring cleaning. Pick a warm day, fling open the windows, and let spring blow in!

Maple sugaring season usually commences about the first week of March. Whether you live in the land of maples or pick up a bottle of real maple syrup from the grocery store, try these recipes that you can find on our website under cooking and recipes:

- [Maple Sweet Potatoes](#)
- [Maple Squash Pie](#)
- [Maple-Mustard Cedar-Plank Salmon](#)
- [Sweet-and-Sour Pork](#)

[See more recipes using maple syrup](#)

Maple Pecan Sticky Bars

These gooey-good maple bars in a buttery shortbread crust are a favorite on the cookie plate. Be sure to allow plenty of time for them to cool before packing in a tin.

Yield: Makes 16 small bars.

Crust:

- 1-1/4 cups unbleached, all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons cold, unsalted butter, cut up
- 1 egg yolk mixed with 1 tablespoon cold water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and butter an 8-inch square pan. Put the flour, sugar, and salt into a food processor and mix briefly. Add the butter and process about 10 more seconds, until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Add the yolk and water to the dry ingredients with the machine running. Process briefly, just until the dough starts to clump together. (The dough can also be mixed by hand or with an electric mixer.) Empty the dough into the pan and press it into the bottom and halfway up the sides. Prick the dough with a fork in several places. Bake for 25 minutes, then cool on a rack.

Filling:

- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup packed light-brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 cup chopped toasted pecans

Combine the maple syrup, brown sugar, butter, and cream in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and boil 2 minutes. Stir in the nuts. Scrape the filling into the crust and bake 15 minutes. Cool on a rack.

Spring weather outlook

Starting to think about spring weather? The Almanac predicts that April and May will be cooler than normal, on average, in most of the U.S. (warmer in the Intermountain, Desert Southwest, and Pacific Southwest regions). Rainfall will be above normal across most of the South and in the Heartland and below normal elsewhere. Spring will be cooler than normal across nearly all of southern Canada. Precipitation will be near normal in The Prairies, above normal in British Columbia, and below normal elsewhere. [See your region's long-range forecasts.](#)

A windy March and a rainy April make a beautiful May.

Black, Blue and Bi-colored: Exciting New Flowers Coming to Garden Centers in 2011

by Doreen G. Howard

February 28, 2011

(from the gardening blog off the Farmers Almanac website)

I'm able to trial **the new flowers and plants** a year or two before they come to the market. A few I've grown recently are stunners and will be in **garden** centers in **2011!**

In the spirit of full disclosure, plant producers send me their introductions to grow, hoping that I'll write and speak about them. However, I'm a tough sell. My climate is severe, prone to late freezes and summer drought, plus the

'Pretty Much Picasso' petunia is a traffic-stopper in any yard.

Credit: Courtesy of
www.provenwinners.com



growing season is short, 100 days if we're lucky. I've grown so many flowers and vegetables that it takes an exceptional plant to impress me.

Two [petunias](#) took my breath away. 'Pretty Much Picasso' is a neon pink bloom edged with lime green. It trails naturally and doesn't need pinching to branch. Plants quickly fill a container or hanging basket with traffic-stopping color. The bi-colored petunia has been available for the previous two seasons, but distribution will be much more widespread this spring. It will be everywhere!



'Black Velvet' petunia is another attention-grabber. Black is an elusive color in the plant world. Yes, there are black hollyhocks and other flowers, but they have a purplish cast that is not true black. It took four years of breeding to finally eliminate the purple. 'Black Velvet' is genuinely black and stunning. It's an upright, compact plant about eight inches high and best for edging a flower bed or planted in smaller containers. Try the charcoal-black flower with white, red or orange blooms. A black-orange combo would be terrific for Halloween.



'Blue Mystique' orchid is already in stores. Photo courtesy of Silver Vase.

True blue is another elusive color in the flower world. Yes, there are primrose and pansies that are blue, but they have undertones of other colors, usually purple again. 'Blue Mystique', a phaeonopsis, is truly blue. The show-stopper

orchid premiered in January and was the star of the world's largest plant show, IPM Essen, in Dusseldorf, Germany. Plants are now arriving at local garden centers and florists.

This primal blue color sadly wasn't bred; flowers are dyed. When flower stalks start to appear, growers inject a blue dye into plant roots. Buds and flowers are an intense blue. Subsequent flowers from the plant revert to white, without dye injections.



'Blue Zebra' primrose is one we may see in stores within a year or two. Photo courtesy of Dr. Rick Shoellhorn.

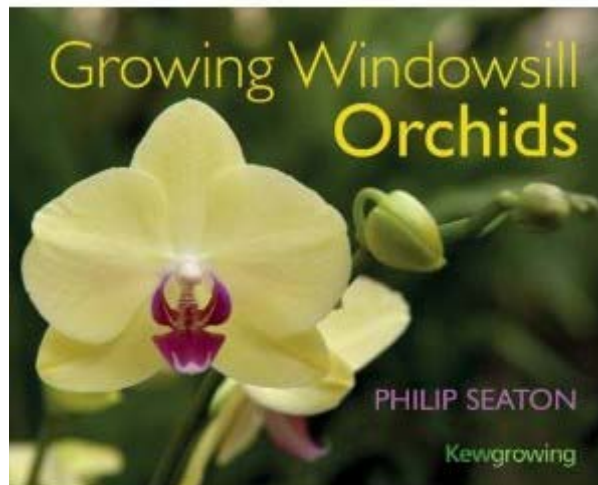
Several true blue primrose were at Essen, too, according to Dr. Rick Schoellhorn, director of new plant development at Proven Winners. They were bred to be blue and will not revert. He says American gardeners will probably see these plants in 2012.

Information Corner:

(Following information from the website of the COC <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/recreation/orchidcongress/basics.html>)

Author(s) Philip Seaton

Publisher Kew Publishing, 2010



From elegant warmth-loving moth orchids to exquisite slipper orchid, *Growing Windowsill Orchids* tells you everything you need to know about successful orchid growing in the home. Written in non-technical language and copiously illustrated with photographs and informative line drawings this book provides

advice on how to choose the best plant, how to look after your orchid when it has finished flowering and how to get it to flower again year after year. Cultivation advice includes the best place to grow your plants in the home, how frequently to water and feed your plants and how to keep them free from pests and disease. Step-by-step instructions explain how and when to repot your plants, what composts to use and when to water. For readers who wish to learn more about their orchids, Phil delves into the basis of orchid biology, conservation and how plants get from the nursery to your shop.

Philip Seaton is a former editor of the Orchid Review.

.....New Orchid Growers Section.....

(all information below found on the COC website)

Here are some websites that may be of help when it comes to repotting your orchids. This is something that should be done with some regularity as older medium breaks down and then becomes harmful to the orchid it houses. You may also want to take a look at the book above as it sounds like a wonderful book to go over the basics of simple orchid growing.

Repotting Illustrated

<http://www.repotme.com/orchid-repotting/Orchid-Repotting-Cattleya.html>

<http://www.repotme.com/orchid-repotting/Orchid-Repotting-Ludisia.html>

<http://www.repotme.com/orchid-repotting/Orchid-Repotting-Phalaenopsis.html>



Submissions for the Newsletter: If there is anything any member would like published in the newsletter, the **dates for submission are the 25th of each month.** They can be emailed to me or sent snail mail to Linda MacDonald, 508 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, N.S. B3Z 4B8. All suggestions and comments are most welcome. Please feel free to contact me at any time.