

January 2008 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild



NEXT MEETING JANUARY 20th Jeff Baylis on Encouraging Costly Behavior: Carnivorous Plants as Companion Plants to Orchids



Although the grasses and the orchids are the most species-rich groups of flowering plants, none of the approximately 600 species of carnivorous plants is a grass or an orchid. Most are 'oddballs', belonging to genera with only one or two species and confined to small geographic areas. In contrast to orchids, carnivorous plants are grown for their leaves, which are often highly elaborated and decorated traps for the luring of insect prey. Notable here are the *Sarracenia*, the North American 'trumpet'

Meeting Dates

January 20, 2008 - Meeting Room
 February 17 - Atrium
 March 9 - Meeting Room
 March 22 - Orchid Sale with Pansy Sale at Olbrich
 April 20 - Meeting Room
 May 18 - Meeting Room
 June TBA
 September 7 - Atrium
 October 19 - Atrium
 December 14 - Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise noted

Up-coming Events

January 23-27, 19th World Orchid Congress
 February 2-3, Orchid Quest
 February 16-18, Batavia Orchid Society Show
 March 1-2, Northeast Wisconsin Orchid Society Show
 March 28-30, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Davenport, IA

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pitcher plants, and the *Nepenthes*, the Asian pitcher plants. Both require bright light and very wet conditions. Both have been widely hybridized in cultivation to produce some spectacular plants. The water-filled trays used for their cultivation are perfect for raising the humidity in the vicinity of orchids.

For those who would like a chance to raise one of these plants, Jeff will have some seedlings available by lot.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is the start of another new year for the Orchid Growers' Guild. Our own Judith Rapacz nominated Scott Weber for the OGG Conservation Award for 2007 and the Board agreed that he would be an excellent recipient. With the assistance of WDNR staff, Judith helped us format the commendation signed by Governor Jim Doyle and presented to Scott at the December OGG meeting. Scott's partner Muffy was there with a big smile on her face. How fortunate we are to have someone like Scott as a member. Congratulations to Scott!

We have already accomplished many of our goals for 2007-2008 such as: developing a revised mission statement; doing a better job of publicizing

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AOS: Jill Hynum (2007)
MAOC: Wayne King
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2007)

OGG events; filling the vacant MAOC representative position. The revised mission statement now appears in each newsletter. Just yesterday I received a phone call from someone in New Holstein, Wisconsin who had read about Orchid Quest in the Wisconsin Trails Magazine, asking for more information. Wayne King is now our MAOC representative and Judith Rapacz is the alternate.

I am concerned about this year's second goal: increase the number of OGG members who help with set-up and take down at shows. The sign-up list for Orchid Quest was circulated at the December OGG meeting and I am surprised that many of the slots remain empty. You have heard it said that it takes a village to raise a child. For 2008 Orchid Quest to be a success **it will take all of us** working together to make it possible. Please consider signing up for more than one of the slots on the sign up list. Thanks!

Lastly, I want to share this profound quote by Stanley Grand which I found while reading through the archives, "Growing an orchid is a little like eating peanuts. You can hardly stop with one." (10/27/87) The best

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The December meeting was a great success. There was excellent attendance as well as delicious food.



Photos by Russ Mackie

Chuck Acker provided wonderful plants this year for members to purchase. For a change of pace, there were

games to play and orchid bingo was a big hit. As mentioned by Judy in the previous article, Scott Weber was presented with his Commendation. The OGG annual awards were also announced and we celebrated OGG's birthday with a cake.



Jill Hynum and Irene Mackie with Acker's orchids

AWARD WINNERS FOR 2007

Beginner

Gwyn Padden-Lechten

Intermediate

Richard Narf

Advanced

Sandy Delamater

Expert

Wayne King

Milo Gilbertson Award

Sandy Delamater

Exhibitor of the Year

Sandy Delamater



Judges Sue Reed, Liz Barlow and Lorraine Snyder contemplating difficult decisions

COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2007 family, friends, orchid enthusiasts and orchid conservationists will come together to celebrate with **Scott Weber** the occasion of conservation, protection and propagation of orchids for more than 20 years for the benefit of people of the State of Wisconsin and the world at large; and

WHEREAS, **Scott Weber** is assisting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in conducting counts at a number of sites where *Platanthera leucophaea* (eastern prairie fringed orchid) is found; is experimenting with propagation from seeds; and is helping coordinate planting seeds into suitable locations to expand the number of populations in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, **Scott Weber** has identified nine orchid species on the Bluestem Farm in Baraboo, has successfully raised eight native species from seed to bloom, and has germinated five species that are either still in flasks or not yet blooming; and

WHEREAS, **Scott Weber** has been instrumental in re-introducing *Cypripedium reginae*, *Cypripedium parviflorum* and *Triphora trianthophora* into the wild areas where they have disappeared; and

WHEREAS, **Scott Weber** has inspired and educated countless individuals over the years about our responsibility to preserve and protect the living world, in particular plants like orchids that are near extinction; and

WHEREAS, **Scott Weber's** tireless drive and determination made the orchid recovery projects come alive through his years of service and leadership with the DNR; and

WHEREAS, **Scott Weber's** life-long mission has been and continues to be to restore and preserve prairies for the benefit of generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Jim Doyle**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby commend and thank

Scott Weber

for his dedication to conservation that benefits the people of the Great State of Wisconsin and I extend my best wishes for continued success in orchid propagation and preservation.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison
and presented this sixteenth day of December in the year two thousand seven

JIM DOYLE



Judy Stevenson presenting Commendation from Governor Doyle to Scott Weber

WEBMASTER

Most of you are probably not aware that our webmaster Svetlana Kot will be leaving us very soon. Many thanks to Svetlana for all her hard work for OGG as a Board member, judge and webmaster. We will miss her!

Anyone who is interested in replacing Svetlana as webmaster, contact a board member as soon as possible so that the transition may go more smoothly.

Remembering John Moses

By Wayne King

Charter member John R. Moses passed away Saturday, December 8, 2007 at the age of 88. John was the first three year term OGG Guild Board member serving from 1986-89. He was a consummate phalaenopsis orchid hybridizer with world-wide recognition for his nearly 90 registered phalaenopsis hybrids from 1982 – 1996. He had his own orchid business named after his (now late) wife Vera called “Orchids By Vera” and garnered two AOS awards for his pink phalaenopsis Margit Moses. He authored an article titled “Phalaenopsis—the Search for Pink” in the April 1980 issue of the AOS Bulletin. In addition to pink phalaenopsis, he also was trying to produce clear yellows with heavy substance and many of his hybrids are yellows.

In the first few years of Orchid Quest at West Town Mall, John had superb displays of large white phalaenopsis which were truly spectacular. He provided several programs on phalaenopsis hybridizing at meetings of the Guild in the 1990's. As John phased out of active participation in the Guild he donated many valuable journals and books which are in the Guild collec-



tion today and are made available to AOS judges at Orchid Quest during AOS judging. John initiated the January call-in program on the Larry Miehler Garden Talk program. In the 1990's John asked me to take over this public education program on Wisconsin Public Radio. I was flattered that he would bestow such an honor on me and I continue my guest appearance on this program, in part, to honor his memory and dedication.

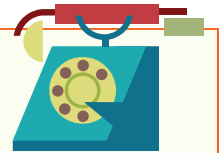
A complete obituary on his substantial accomplishments can be found in the Wednesday, December 12 issue of "The Capital Times". A complete list of his registered hybrids can be found on the Wildcatt hybridizer data base for J. Moses and John R Moses. John and his wife Mildred 'Mil' Jaynes were members until 2003 when John's health began to be compromised. It was truly an honor to have known John and Mil and John's enthusiasm for orchids.

During his early years of growing, John was growing his plants at Acker's. Chuck Acker says he learned a lot from John during those years. To honor John, he will be creating a memorial phalaenopsis hybrid to honor John to be presented to any members of his family who might like to have one. Other memorials may be made out to the Veteran's Home at King or Hospice Care.

ORCHID QUEST ON THE AIR

Linda Barcz of the Bruce Company will be on WISC-TV over the noon hour on January 28. Phyliss Williams of K & W Greenery, our sponsor, will broadcast over WCLO radio on February 2 from the Alliant Center

CALL IN SHOW



Wayne King will be taking calls again this year on NPR on January 25 at 11 AM

ORCHID GROWERS' GUILD POINT TOTALS

Beginner's Class

Gwyn Padden-Lechten 3

One to Five Years

Richard Narf 58
Svetlana Kot 53
Lorraine Snyder 33
Jody Thistle 31
Sarah Lundey 22
Judy Stevenson 19
Elaine Malter 16
Joanne Bernardi 12
Len Huebner 4
Don Fago 4
Dawn Weckler 2

Five to Ten Years

Sandy Delamater 310
Meg McLaughlin 42
Liz Wood 12
Irene Mackie 4

Over Ten Years

Wayne King 104

Susan Reed 64
Steven Thimling 55
Jeff Baylis 22
Dennis Pfarrer 15
Jill Hynum 12
Judith Rapacz 12
Judy Williamson 4
Richard Miller 2

Help with Displays

Sandy Delamater 63.5
Judy Stevenson 17
Sue Reed 8
Meg McLaughlin 6
Jill Hynum 6
Wayne King 5
Denise Baylis 3
Svetlana Kot 3
Sarah Lundey 3
Amy Ripp 3
Richard Narf 3
Arlene King 3



Photograph by Gwyn Padden-Lechten

Oncidium Twinkle 'Red Fantasy' earned a first place ribbon for Meg McLaughlin last month.

FALL 2007 - Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC)

Judith Rapacz

The Mid-America Orchid Congress was held in Independence, MO (Nov. 16-18, 2007) in conjunction with the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City (OSGKC) Orchid Expo & Sale. The theme was "Orchids and all that Jazz".

I arrived late Friday afternoon in Kansas City and shared the ride from the Airport to the Hotel and Conference Center with Christine M. Chowning, a renowned judge and award donor for the "Best Angraecoid species". We arrived in time for the Preview Gala and had a chance to view the exhibits, some of which were truly outstanding, including the OSGKC's exhibit, which got the "Best Exhibit" trophy, plus several other awards.

Saturday morning started with the "Judges and Clerks Breakfast" at 6:30am, followed by orientation and judging. I volunteered for clerking - there were six teams, each consisting of four judges, one head clerk, one spotter and two ribbon clerks. Over 600 plants were entered for judging. A number of plants got pulled for AOS judging and six of them received AOS awards. There were seven "Special Awards", four "MAOC" trophies, and 19 "Best of Class" trophies. The large variety of orchid species and hybrids at the Expo and Sales certainly satisfied every orchidist's curiosity and appetite.

After lunch MAOC sponsored 3 lectures (see <http://www.kcorchidshow.org/Speakers.htm>). The first lecture entitled "Lost Orchids of the Organ Mountains in Brazil" was given by Dr. Richard Warren. First he showed an aerial photo of Brazil taken in the 1700's, and a second taken in 1994, almost 300 years later. Comparing these photos, it is evident that only about 15% of the original primary forest remains. Initially, mining for diamonds and gold caused primary forest destruction. Later, trees were cut in favor of café plantations, at which time large volumes of orchids were collected from the cut trees. He showed spectacular pictures of *Sophronitis coccinea*, high up in the trees surrounded by patches of moss, which retain a lot of moisture necessary for the orchids. Mr. Warren also showed pictures of many Brazilian orchids such as *L. pumila*, *L. crista*, *C. harrisoniana*, *C. bowringiana*, *Encyclias*, *Stanhopias*, *Oncidiums* and *Pragmipedium* and many more. Although much of the Costal forest has been destroyed over the past century, there are still large fragments to be explored. The majority of orchids (73%) grow in elevations between 800-1600 meters in the intermediate to cool region. The forest canopy hosts lots of Bromeliad plants and he estimated that in one hectare (2.5 acres) of forest, these Bromeliads store about 10,000 liters (3,500 gallons)



of rain, acting like a 'suspended sea'. For more info see <http://www.equatorialplants.com>, www.rockboat.co.uk/riotrust/. For info on Brazilian orchids check this web: <http://www.delfinadearaujo.com/>

The second lecture entitled "Herding Catts: A Beautiful Trail Through Difficult Phylogeny" was given by Tom Miranda. He showed many lovely pictures of well-known *Cattleya*, *Laelia* and *Sophranitis* species. Then he explained a new classification based on DNA analysis, that has been done over the past few years, led mainly by Dr. Cassio van den Berg, at the University of Santana, Brazil. Thus, *Cattleya* and *Laelia* species from Mexico will retain their names, however some Brazilian *Cattleya* and *Laelia* species will be re-classified, since they show a closer phylogenetic relation to *Sophranitis* than to the Mexican species. Most participants were not enthusiastic about future name changes. How does Guarianthe sound for *Cattleya skinneri*, *C. maxima* or *C. araguaiensis*? see www.delfinadearaujo.com/on/on29/pages/cassioeng.htm

The third lecture "Culture and Hybridization of Reedstem Epidendrum" was by James Rose. The Epidendrum is considered a "weed" in Central and South America. Jim call's them "poor man's orchid". There are 5 Epi species; *ibaguense*, *radicans*, *secundum*, *ellipticum* and *cinnabarium*. The wild Epidendrum species have a lot of aerial roots and are too tall for a popular houseplant. James Rose did a lot of breeding using various Epi species (I remember visiting his place a few years back when he had a Greenhouse full of *Cymbidiums*). A lot of breeding has also been done in Japan, especially in breeding short (1 foot) plants ideal for small homes. A nice picture of an Epidendrum was on the cover of "Orchid Digest" in August 2005 (see www.calorchid.com - Products - Epidendrum).

After the lectures there was an auction, a highlight of the MAOC event, raising about \$ 2,700. There were dozens of orchid plants donated by society members and vendors. Other items donated were books, T-shirts, dishes, quilts, storage boxes, pictures, jewelry, etc. – anything with an orchid on it. OGG donated two plants (*Neofinetia falcata* var. *Mameba Nishiki*, and var. *Chosentetsu* or *Cyosentetsu*), Sue Reed an *Epigeneium treacherianum*, and I added a *Scaphyglottis longicaulis* that I got from Shelby's Botanical Garden. Each plant went for \$ 20.



Sunday morning started with the traditional "Affiliated Societies Breakfast". Affiliated Societies addressed "Challenges Facing Local Orchid Societies." Issues discussed included finding volunteers, attracting new members, particularly young members, retaining members and the importance of an informative Newsletter. The MAOC business meeting followed and the "Minutes" will appear on the MAOC website.

I did not get to attend the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) Lecture by Tom Harper, due to travel constraints. However, an interesting visit was organized to Bird's Botanicals (www.birdsbotanicals.com - visit the cave). David Bird could not afford a greenhouse (too costly and labor intensive) so he got the idea to inquire about space in the cave of the Interstate Underground Warehouse. David requires only water and electricity. He has 4 rooms, separated by sheets of Styrofoam. Every room has several 1000-Watt bulbs that provide the heat. The temperature is about 65°F and he keeps the lights on for 12 hours and then off 12 hours. He has several hundred *Phalaenopsis* in spike, as well as many other orchids and horticultural plants.

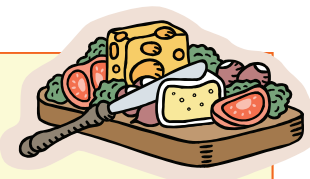
The Phal flowers open slower due to the cool temperatures and keep for a longer time. His helper waters once a week by hand. This is certainly a low maintenance operation and quite inventive.

The Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC) web site is -- <http://midamericanorchids.org/>

Photographs by Judith Rapacz

HOSPITALITY

As was mentioned in the November Newsletter, OGG is looking for someone to volunteer to take over Hospitality. Maria Montello has volunteered to share the position. Please contact a member of the Board if you are interested.



The OGG Point System, How It Works and How It Evolved

Part I: Awarding Points for Flowering Plants

by Wayne King

The judging of orchid plants at Guild meetings first occurred at the February 1986 Membership meeting and was published in the March 7, 1986 newsletter. Since that date, judging results were published in each newsletter. Also, a Judging Committee was established with a chair for judging at Guild meetings. The judging chair then established the practice of including on the judging team, at least one member who has had no prior experience in judging. According to the newsletter: "This practice will be continued so that eventually all members will have a chance to develop a better understanding of what is involved in judging plants." It was further noted, in urging members to bring in plants: "Even if you don't win a ribbon, the judges' critique of your plant should be of continuing value."

The importance of ribbon judging was affirmed by Board resolution #88-2 "Rules Governing the Conduct of Judging". Awarding of points for growing orchids stemmed from that April 11, 1988 Board Resolution (#88-2) which provided the foundation for plant judging based upon Article I of the Guild's By-Laws. Specifically, that resolution states: "To recognize and encourage superior orchid growing, the Guild shall provide for plant judging and the granting of awards to members presenting plants for judging." That same resolution outlines some provisions for the judging process.

There is no evidence of a point system in place during these early days. Milo Gilbertson, the Guild's charter member and most outstanding grower, died September 5, 1991. At its September 15, 1991 meeting, the membership approved an ongoing award for outstanding orchid growing in Milo's honor. To provide that award, a point system was created with 4 points for special awards, 3 for first place, 2 for second place and 1 for third place.

By 1998, two innovations in the awards system were introduced as outlined in the May 1998 issue of the OGG Newsletter. The first of these was to provide double points for awards gained at AOS judged shows. This was intended to both encourage participation in these shows, which was sorely needed, and to recognize the greater difficulty in having plants awarded at shows. The second innovation was to create three categories of awards with the second and third highest point totals receiving certificates of recognition.

The next innovation was the creation of award classes based upon the experience of the grower. This modification for awards was first published in the May 1998 issue of the Guilds' Newsletter (Res #12-98-1 and 12-98-2 as published 2/99). Instead of the three highest point totals serving as the basis of awards, awards were now divided into three classes based upon the ex-

perience of the grower: class 1: Less than 5 years of growing experience, class 2: 5 to 10 years and class 3: over 10 years of growing experience.

The Orchid Growers' Guild established formal policies and an expanded point system with a Board Resolution adopted January 7, 2002. Among these policies: 1) Any member selling more than 500 plants in the preceding year (ie Commercial Grower) is not eligible under this system of points and awards, 2) the Board is responsible for establishing the budget each year for the awards and the nature of awards, 3) Award points are to be earned December thru November, 4) The OGG newsletter shall publish a record of plant and exhibit awards as soon as practicable after this is known and, periodically, a summary of points earned by growers on their plants and exhibitors on their awards, 5) No points shall be earned by Guild members for plants in individual displays. This initial policy provided 2 points for each plant exhibited at an AOS judged show and 1 point for each plant at a meeting. To encourage participation in shows, the practice of doubling points for ribbons won at a show over those at a membership meeting was continued. Show participation was further rewarded for prestigious awards. Any plant receiving an AOS award would earn 25 points, any special award (such as best plant of the show) would earn 20 points, and a Best of Class award would be awarded 15 points. In addition to the four award categories (i.e. Milo Gilbertson, Best Advanced Grower, Best Intermediate, and Best Beginner, optional awards for "Runner Up" and "Most Improved Grower" were created but never implemented.

The Board further revised the policy in December 2003 split the "Beginners class" into two classes: those with 1-2 years of experience and those with 3-5 years of experience, bringing to 5, the current number of award categories. It also eliminated the earning of points for exhibiting a plant except for the 0-2 years of experience category. This change was intended to encourage Beginners to bring plants for display. This revised policy is the current policy and is very specific about the nature of the award. This policy, although not specifically stated, appears to replace, rather than modify, previous policy. The new policy expanded the points given for "Best of Class" from 15 to 25 but made no mention of AOS awards or Special Awards.

Since the 2003 Awards Policy revision did not specifically state that it replaced all pre-existing policy, it is assumed that all prior Awards Policies, not addressed in the 2003 revision, remain in place. One issue this raises is that an AOS award is now worth the same number of points as a Best of Class award. This has not been a problem because AOS award points have not been earned by Guild members – but could be an inequity at some future time.



Photograph by Sandy Delamater
Potinara Burana Beauty



Photograph by Sandy Delamater
Zygopetalum 'Cardinal's Roost'

Summary: The awards system for plants has grown in complexity, with most of the changes occurring in the past five years. It now incorporates incentives for bringing plants to meetings, extra encouragement for beginning growers to exhibit their plants, and extra rewards for plants brought for the Guild's exhibit and for Away Shows. This has been accompanied by significant record keeping requirements such as:

1. Dividing the membership into "experience categories"
2. Tracking every plant displayed by persons in the 0-2 year experience category because they earn a point for every plant
3. Differentiating points earned at meetings from those earned at shows because the latter points are doubled
4. Ensuring that there is proper crediting of points for "Best of Class" and other special awards.

All of these considerations have been built into an Excel spreadsheet which contains formulas for calculating points for each meeting and show for each member of the Guild and for all meetings and shows for each member. From this spreadsheet detail, summaries must be prepared and published during the year so members have an opportunity to review their points earned year to date. The final summary provided the basis for the awards. The spreadsheet provides the backup for summaries if questions arise.



Above is an *Encyclia aspera*; below is a *L. anceps alba* x *Dialaelia Snowflake*_ Mendenhall'

Photographs by Rich Narf



Below from the Bolz Conservatory, on the left is a *Bulbophyllum grandifolium*; and on the right a *Phalaenopsis sumatrana*

Photographs by Denise Baylis



UP-COMING EVENTS 2008

- January 23-27, 19th World Orchid Congress will be held in Miami FL the theme for the show is "Orchids—Nature's Masterpiece™."
- February 2-3, Orchid Quest
- February 9-10, 29th Annual Show, Southern Ontario Orchid Society, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- February 16-18, 2008 Annual Orchid Show, Batavia Orchid Society, NEW LOCATION, Dupage County Fairground, 2015 W. Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL
- February 28-March 2, San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Expo, "Orchids Gone Wild," Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA
- March 1-2, Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI
- March 15-16, Michigan Orchid Society Show, Michigan State Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Rd., Troy, MI
- March 28-30, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre, 1717 W. 12th Street, Davenport, IA
- April 5-6, Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL
- April 12-13, Ann Arbor Orchid Society Show, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.
- May 24-25, Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society Show, GTC Civic Center 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City, MI



You know you are addicted to orchids when...

... any time you go shopping and the store has orchids, you start the sentence, "I'm just going ... " and your family finishes it, "...to check out the orchids."

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 7th at 7 p.m. They will meet at Judy Stevenson's residence. Let Judy Stevenson know if you plan to attend as well as to obtain the agenda and any last minute changes.

MISSION STATEMENT

Forming friendships by working together in harmony as an organization. For guild members and the public, finding pleasure in being with others who share an excitement for the awe and beauty of orchids (native and tropical).

Understanding more about one of the world's largest flowering families, the orchidaceae. This would include learning their growing cultures, propagation and preservation through formal and informal education that enhances each of our growing abilities.

Nurturing the plant and the world of orchids by supporting local and worldwide environmental conservation projects. Nourish the human spirit and reflect the ideals of AOS and MAOC. Increase general appreciation of orchids through educational opportunities for all.