

November 2010 *The Orchid Grower*

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



Meeting Dates

November 14, Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery
December 19-Meeting Room
January 16, 2011-Meeting Room
February 20-Meeting Room
March 20-Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery
April 17-Meeting Room
April 23-Spring Orchid Sale at Olbrich
May 15-Olbrich
June Picnic-TBA
July Field Trip-TBA

Meetings start at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Up-Coming Events:

- February 5 -6, 2011 , Orchid Quest
- February 9 -10, 2011 Batavia
- March 5-6, 2011, Northeast Orchid Show
- March 12-13, 2011, Iowa Orchid Society Show, IA
- March 26-27, 2011, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show,
- October 8-9, 2011 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show

Officers and Committees

President:

Rich Narf (2012)
znarf@dishmail.net

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2011)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Annette Minter/Lorraine Snyder

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 14th 25th Anniversary Celebration at Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

Our next meeting will be at Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery to celebrate our 25th anniversary. The greenhouse will be open at 11 AM. You can browse and shop among the blooming orchids for plants and supplies. **We will not have the usually ribbon judging.** At 1:00 PM sharp,

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NO MYSTERY AFTER ALL!

The simplistic beauty of growing *Mexipedium xerophyticum*

By Heidi Whetmore

At last month's meeting, I was asked to talk about my experience growing Mexipediums. I would like to thank all of you that came, and for the great audience participation.

For those of you who couldn't make it, but may have a vague or burning desire to grow your own Mexi's, I thought I would provide a short summary of what I do to get you started. Mexipediums have only been found in Oaxaca Mexico, and grow in a harsh environment. Their ability to survive makes them great beginner plants for anyone.

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Assuming you have been inspired by this article already, and purchased your first Mexipedium, now what? The first thing to consider is your choice of pot. Mexipediums produce new growths via runners, and have a tendency to escape the pot the mother plant is in. I have found Bonsai pots to be quite helpful because they are wide and shall-

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NO MYSTERY

Treasurer:

Audrey Lucier
audl@aol.com

Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

Gary Brendemuehl (2013)
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Irene Mackie (2012)
Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com

Away Shows:
Open

Hospitality:
Pat Narf

Librarian:
Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Membership:
Board of Directors

Newsletter:
Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest:
Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net
Judith Rapacz
jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu

Programs:
Judy Stevenson

Ribbon Judging:
Nicole Amass
Jody Thistle

Web Master:
Gary Brendemuehl
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Liaisons:

Alliant: Judy Stevenson

AOS: Jill Hynum

MAOC: Wayne King, Judith Rapacz

Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum

low and can accommodate the runner's vicarious life-style. An alternative to using Bonsai pots is taping small pots together using waterproof tape, and then filling the pots with mix and New Zealand sphagnum



Photograph © Heidi Whetmore
Mexipedium xerophyticum

moss. Both ways allow the grower to go longer without re-potting.

There are a few other things I do. I use Marilyn LeDoux's Mexipedium Mix Recipe as a base, and then add New Zealand sphagnum moss throughout each pot. The mix is well-draining, and the shallow pots prevent the mother plant from having "wet feet". The moss provides the runners the moisture they need to root and grow. Floral pins are useful for securing the runners in the mix once they have formed small leaves. This helps create neater and fuller looking plants. Lastly, I put a top dressing of oyster shell in the pots to encourage blooming. I believe Mexipediums can do well in a variety of growing environments. I grow my orchids under lights, and use RO water. I've had good success giving my Mexi's ¼ tsp/gallon of MSU RO Special fertilizer weekly. It helps to keep track of how you grow the plants, too. I try to keep my growing environment (light, water, temperature, humidity, food) fairly consistent within each season. This way, if one of my orchids starts taking a turn for the worst, I can get to the root of the problem faster.

So, what are you waiting for? Mexipediums are endangered, and may not survive long-term in the wild. They do not disappoint in regard to blooming time either. I've had plants bloom for up to 6 months! And, if you decide to grow them you can tell all your friends that you grow and bloom *Mexipedium xerophyticum*—the perfect dime-size ancestral slipper orchid from Oaxaca, Mexico. How can you say "no" to that?

Questions or comments?

Contact Heidi at hwhetmore@gmail.com

Orchid Quest
Madison Orchid Growers Guild
Feb 5-6, 2011
Alliant Energy Center
Exhibition Hall
Madison, Wisconsin
Sponsored By:
Orchids
Garden Centre & Nursery

OGG Blackhawk Orchid Show Results October 23-24, 2010

Exhibit set up and take down by: Sandy Delamater

OGG DISPLAY First Place

First Place, Best of Class, and Special Award – Best Vanda Alliance of Show

Sandy Delamater *Aerides lawrenciae* (sp)

First Place and Best of Class

Audrey Lucier Hasegawaara Red Stella 'Jerry'
Sandy Delamater *Paph. vejvarutianum* (sp)

First Place

Sue Reed	Psychopsis Mendenhall alba 'Yellow Butterfly'
Sue Reed	Den. Green Mist
Sue Reed	Masdevallia Angel Heart
Wayne King	Ascda Blue Eyes
Sandy Delamater	<i>Lycaste linguella</i> (sp)
Chuck Acker	Alcra. Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold'
Chuck Acker	Mps. Zorro 'Yellow Delight'

Second Place

Chuck Acker	Bllra. Patricia McCully 'Pacific Matriarch'
Sue Reed	Vuyl. Fall in Love 'Lovely Lady'
Audrey Lucier	Doritis pulcherrima var chumporensis
Sandy Delamater	Dtps. Sogo Yenlin 'Coffee'

Third Place

Chuck Acker	Dtps. Leopard Prince 'Sogo F1138'
Audrey Lucier	Onc. Sweet Sugar
(Specimen Class) Sandy Delamater	<i>Aerides lawrenciae</i> (sp)



Photograph by Sandy Delamater
Masdevallia Angel Heart grown by Sue Reed



Photograph by Sandy Delamater
OGG exhibit



Photographs by Sandy Delamater



From the Blackhawk Show, Clockwise from top left: Hasegawara Red Stella 'Jerry' awarded Best of Class, grown by Audrey Lucier; Masd. Pumila; Dtps; Paph Gold Dollie; and Society Pin Collection.

My Mid-America Orchid Congress Trip

Attending the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC) last month was a great experience and my first show and meeting outside of Wisconsin. The MAOC was held in Louisville, Kentucky and Judith and Jan Rapacz encouraged me to come along. Wayne and Lorraine King as well as Jill Hynum were also there.

The trip was fantastic, and to be honest, I couldn't have asked for a better time! I had the opportunity to meet many MAOC members, including the former president, Mark van der Woerd. I will summarize Judith's introduction: "This is Heidi, the future MAOC president; she doesn't work, so she needs things to do. I keep her busy..." With such a fabulous introduction, it wasn't long before I was signed-up for clerking the next day...at 7AM! I am not a morning person, but with my future at stake, I was not about to say "no"!

I enjoyed my experience clerking, but it didn't end there. There was also time for pictures, shopping, and of course, socializing! I attended Marni Turkel's and Fred Clarke's talks in the afternoon, which were both interesting and educational. I even got to help with the auction which was no small affair either; if my memory serves me correctly, homemade chocolates went for a mere \$600! I bought a lovely pair of orchid seat-warmers which now serve as perfect "cat-warmers", and the dinner following the auction was delicious.

All in all, MAOC was excellent in terms of planning, intrigue, educational value, and fun. But most of all, it was a pleasure to be around so many kind and knowledgeable people

that shared a passion for orchids. I would recommend MAOC to anyone that has a love for orchids, and enjoys sharing their excitement with fellow growers.

Don't miss out on the upcoming Spring Meeting in Memphis, May 20-22, 2011.

Your Fellow Orchid
Enthusiast,
Heidi Whetmore



Photograph by Jill Hynum

Kentucky Orchid Society exhibit at MAOC. "I thought it was interesting how they hung some of the plants in baskets mounted to the wall. They also had an enclosed light cabinet." Jill Hynum

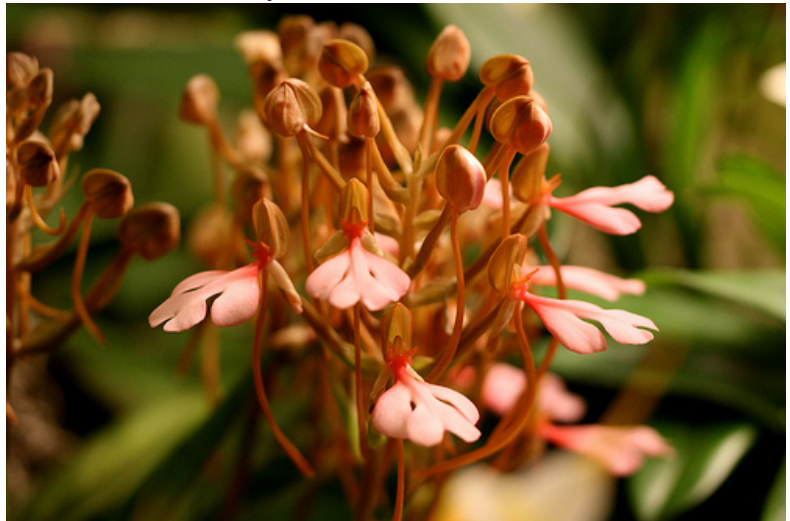
ORCHIDS FROM THE LOUISVILLE MAOC SHOW



Cynoches loddigesii species grown by Jordan Hawley; Sunset Valley Orchids



Neofinetia falcata 'Oh Nami Sei Kai', Grown by Geni Smith, Atlanta Orchid Society



Habenaria Hampson (rhodocheila x roebelenii) grown by Jordan Hawley, Sunset Valley Orchids



Habenaria medusae species grown by Russ Vernon, New Vision Orchids



Paph parishii grown by Tennis Maynard, Central Ohio Orchid Society

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- **February 5-6, 2011**, Orchid Quest, Madison
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- **March 5-6, 2011**, Northeast Orchid Show in Neenah, WI
- **March 12-13, 2011**, Ilowa Orchid Society Show, IA
- **March 26-27, 2011**, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 8-9, 2011**, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
- **November 14-23, 2011**, 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore

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NEXT MEETING

The banquet will start in the greenhouse with the pond. After a welcome from Kent Franz, there will be a Mediterranean buffet meal prepared and served by Bunky's Café. Then we will look back at how we got to where we are today. There will be a roll call of those people in the guild that have held office or have had special tasks. Wayne and Arlene King will both share "Reflections" over the past 25 years. There will be time for other members and friends to share memories. Then there will be presentations of the Orchid Digest Diamond Award and the AOS Certificate Award. Our president Rich Narf has a Commendation to present. At about 3 PM, we will conclude on where the future takes us. Last of all, there will be a drawing for door prizes.

We had hoped to have photos or slides of the guild's activities. These have not been forthcoming. You are welcome to bring either a scrapbook or a poster if you have pictures that you would like to share. **Parking is a premium as there are only about 45 spots for parking at Orchids and we are NOT to park on the grass. Please car pool with other members as much as possible.** See you there!

---Judy Stevenson

A BIG THANK YOU!

The editor would like to give a special thanks to all those who contributed articles, information or photographs to this newsletter. This includes but is not limited to and in no particular order: Judy Stevenson, Heidi Whetmore, Wayne King, Sandy Delamater and Jill Hynum. This newsletter could not be published without their contributions.

Denise Baylis
Editor

From Jill Hynum

Orchid Species Culture Sheets

I stumbled across a good resource for cultural information. It's the Charles and Margaret Baker Orchid Species website. It's at <http://www.orchidculture.com/>. In addition to some general guidance, they also provide a subscription service with access to their extensive library of cultural information on orchid species. These cultural sheets are based on their native habitats and the experience of many growers. You can get 10 culture sheets for \$10, 22 culture sheets for \$20, etc. You can take a look at some sample culture sheets for free (such as *brassavola nodosa*, *cattleya skinneri*, *laelia pumila*, *psychopsis papilio* and more).