

# January 2012 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison  
Website [orchidguild.org](http://orchidguild.org)



## **NEXT MEETING January 15th** **“What you need to know about preparing for Orchid Quest”**

This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Orchid Quest put on by OGG. It is an event that we can all be proud of. It is one of the largest orchid shows in the Mid-West. Over the years it has grown. This year we have a total of 22 vendors. I hope you are all wearing your **ASK ME ABOUT ORCHIDS** buttons to spread the word about Orchid Quest.

The Saturday breakfast will again be at the Clarion breakfast dining room starting at 6:15 AM. We will use the walkway from Alliant's Exhibition Hall to the Clarion and back. At 7:00 AM, we will get instructions from the new show chair Anthony Nuccio, a member of Batavia Orchid Society. Our program is diversified and interesting. We are very excited to have Glen Decker from Galway, NY, talking to us two times on Saturday. He first speaks at 11 AM about **“How to Grow Great Slipper Orchids”**. Then from 6 – 7 PM, Glen will talk about **“Phragmipedium kovachii and Its Hybrids”**. I encourage you to join us for the Banquet in the evening. The sit down dinner of Baby Spinach Salad, Sun-Dried Tomato and Basil Stuffed Chicken and Emily's Carrot Cake costs \$25. (Wine is extra.) Preregistration is

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### **Meeting Dates**

January 15– Meeting Room  
February 19– Meeting Room  
March 18– Meeting Room  
April 15– Meeting Room  
May 20– Meeting Room  
May 27– Field Trip to Kettle Moraine  
June Picnic– TBA

**Meetings start at 1:30 pm at Olbrich Gardens unless otherwise noted**

### **Up-Coming Events:**

- February 4-5, 2012, Orchid Quest
- April 7, Spring Orchid Sale

### **Officers and Committees**

#### **President:**

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#### **Vice President:**

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#### **Secretary:**

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#### **Treasurer:**

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[lodijox@charter.net](mailto:lodijox@charter.net)

#### **Board:**

Judy Williamson (2014)  
[jwilliamson@usgs.gov](mailto:jwilliamson@usgs.gov)

## **RECAP OF HOLIDAY PARTY**

Photographs by Jill Hynum

This year at our annual “Holiday Party” we had one of our best meetings ever. A large number of our guild was present and several members brought their partners. Wayne and Lorraine King celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary the night before (CONGRATULATIONS!) . After a huge potluck dinner

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## Radio Show on WTDY AM 1670

Carol Koby, host of All About Living and Living Minutes will present a one hour talk show on January 21, 2012 at 1 PM. She will do a live interview with Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, Heidi Maenner and Judy Stevenson. Please tune in.

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which included a spiral baked ham (Pat Narf, hospitality committee), it was time to pass out the annual awards. (See sidebar)

Next it was time to play an orchid game developed by our own **Trader Chuck**. Chuck was wearing his Santa hat which made the event more festive. Chuck brought 50 orchids ranging in price from \$25 to \$35 to choose from. Some of the orchids were hidden in paper bags or tissue paper which made the game more exciting. A total of 30 OGG members drew numbers. Carrie Wiesman picked the #1 ticket for which she chose *Laeliocattleya bowri-albida* "Pink Lady". That gorgeous orchid traveled from one OGG member to another because of lust (or was it just orchid fever?) Finally in the end, Carrie got to retrieve her #1 pick and then the playing ended. **We had a lot of fun with the game, Chuck!**

## Annual OGG Award Winners

The Points winners were:

Level 0	Robert Lasseter
Level 1	Lorraine Snyder
Level 2	Sandy Delamater
Level 3	Sue Reed
Milo Gilbertsen Award	Sandy Delamater
Exhibitor of the Year	Sandy Delamater

Also congratulations to Jill Hynum and Sue Reed who each received AOS Awards, and to Chuck Acker who received the Orchid Digest Diamond Award (See following story). All three have made a huge impact on what OGG is today



Wayne King with "Orchid Bandit"



Santa Trader Chuck with a happy Lynn West



Judy Williamson wants that *Laeliocattleya bowriei*-albida  
“Pink Lady”!



Dawn Weckler wondering who wants her new treasure



Sue Reed admiring Sarah Lunday’s “find”



Bob Lasseter and his special find



Meg McLaughlin and her, “Don’t even think about it!” look

## **ORCHID DIGEST DIAMOND AWARD WINNER**

Orchid Growers’ Guild, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin

*Chuck Acker*

The Orchid Growers’ Guild (OGG) is honored to present the 2012 Orchid Digest Award of Excellence to Chuck Acker. He was one of the original founders of OGG when it was established in late 1985. As a charter member, he served as the first Vice President. Over the last 26 years he has supported the guild in many ways. Chuck has been employed in the orchid nursery business for most of his life; first with his father’s business, Orchids by the Ackers, to his present position at Orchids Garden Centre and Nursery. During all of these years he has actively encouraged, and educated his customers in orchid culture and the

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Judy Stevenson presenting Chuck Acker with the  
Orchid Digest Diamond Award

Photograph by Jill Hynum

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benefits of joining Orchid Growers Guild. Chuck has been a regular presenter at the Guild's November meeting. The November meeting was the start of "Chuck's Challenge." when guild members receive a seedling. The goal is to nurture the seedling in the next year so as to become the "winner" of Chuck's predetermined requirements. Winners receive a gift certificate to use at the nursery.

Chuck has ensured that the Guild is allowed to use the greenhouse as the drop-off/pick up point for our away shows. He has helped us fill in the OGG away show exhibits with orchid plants when we run low on plants. In addition, he has opened the greenhouse late on Sunday evenings when we return with show plants.

In recent years, he has sponsored the Cypripedium Alliance: (Best of Classes 40 through 42) award at Orchid Quest, the Guild's annual show. Most recently, he has become involved in some of our pre-show activities including speaking on the Larry Meiller "Garden Talk" show. He has been one of the biggest supporters of the Guild since its founding. He has done it because he loves orchids and wants to help all those that share his interest. We all appreciate the help and education that he has given each of us when it comes to orchids. We want to give him long overdue recognition.

## **OGG EXHIBIT for OQ 2012**

By Sue Reed

It is that time of year again to inspect, clean and stake the inflorescences on your plants! This will prepare your plants for our great February show, Orchid Quest 2012!

Staking of the florescence will make it easier to transport your plants and it will improve the presentation of the flowers. You can head off insect problems by early and consistent treatment! The cleaning of your plants will also increase your appreciation of the plants. Remember that the quality of the exhibit depends upon the quality and presentation of the orchid plants in the exhibit!

Please email a listing of your plants to me, Susan Reed, [greed@chorus.net](mailto:greed@chorus.net), no later than the evening of Monday, January 30, 2012! I will need the full name, if it is a hybrid, and the cross, if you know the cross. I will also need to know the class that you want it judged. Many classes are set for specific colors of the flowers and whether or not there are markings on the flowers. If you have trouble deciding on a class, always choose the first class that the plant might fit into. You can email me a photo and the cross and I can see if I can help you decide upon the class. I will need to send the orchid registration information on to the show registration committee before the show.

Please leave a small plant label in the pot with the plant's name and your name. Your name needs to be on the pot towards the bottom so we can make sure you get your plant back!

ALL plants need to be at the Alliant Energy Center by 12 noon on Friday, Febuary 3. The earlier the better to ease the set up group's stress. You are also responsible to take your plants home af-

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ter the show on Sunday, February 5, no earlier than 4 PM. Please contact others if you need help with getting your plants to or from the show. It is very important that we have as many nice blooming orchids in our exhibit as possible.

Remember we will be having about 70 orchid plants to label and place in the exhibit. That takes a lot of time to do the best placement for displaying your plants. Anything that you can do to make the process run smoothly and on time is greatly appreciated!

We will be doing a garden exhibit again this year, so please consider bringing your nice clean foliage houseplants for the exhibit. The leaves on these plants need to be clean with all dead, dying and brown leaves and tips of leaves removed. Please label the pots on your houseplants at the outside bottom edge also.

We could also use some nice outdoor garden art to add to our exhibit. It is best if it is of a dark color so it blends into the surroundings without over shadowing the orchids. Label these if possible in an inconspicuous spot. Please don't be hurt if we decide not to use your piece, but we will try to use what fits into the display. Again drop off and taking home are your responsibility, but other members are more than willing to help out if they can for the transportation.

Remember for plants in the exhibit and for judging, there is no requirement about how long you have owned the plant. So if the great plant you got at the Holiday Party, for example, is looking great for the show, then PLEASE enter it for the exhibit! Others that are having their plants judged did not grow them into blooming, so you do not have to also! Show off your new plants in the exhibit!

Thank you all for your great participation in the Guild's exhibit!

### In Quest of *Phragmipedium kovachii*

Chuck Acker first went to Peru in September 2003 to view the natural habitat of a newly discovered orchid, *Phragmipedium kovachii*. He took a guided 3 ½ hour hike into the Peruvian jungle where the plants were growing on a south-facing calcareous cliff. This was the exact site where earlier that year a local farmer had picked the first specimen of *P. kovachii*, brought it to town and sold it to an American tourist named Michael Kovach. Mr. Kovach then brought the plant back to the U.S. for identification and naming.



In April 2005, Chuck Acker and Jerry Fischer of Orchids Limited traveled back to Peru to be the first commercial orchid growers to import flasks of this beautiful orchid into the U.S. They first met with Manolo Arias of Peruflorea who was the only nursery to successfully propagate *P. kovachii* by seed and legally export them. They had to sign stacks of papers involving the legal importation of the flasks and sign documents stating that there would be no sales of these plants for a two year period from date of purchase. Plants from these flasks can be tracked with DNA technol-

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ogy which will ensure that the hundreds of illegal plants sold on the black market will stay at bay. Chuck has successfully grown these plants and was the first person to publicly show a *P. kovachii* in bloom at Orchid Quest 2009. *Phragmipedium kovachii* is now the basis of Phragmipedium hybridizing by Chuck, Jerry Fischer and other Phragmipedium grower's world wide.

Glen Decker (see article below) is another orchid grower with a stock of *P. kovachii* in his greenhouses. He will speak at Orchid Quest, February 4, 2012 at 11:00 AM in the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall on **"How to Grow Great Slipper Orchids"**. That evening, he will speak at 6:00 PM at a sit down banquet about **"Phragmipedium kovachii and Its Hybrids"**

## OQ SPEAKER GLEN DECKER

Glen Decker a proprietor of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, NY, will be at Orchid Quest February 4, 2012. Glen began growing orchids at the age of 15 and holds a degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. His topic will be "How to Grow Great Slipper Orchids." The world of orchids is a fascinating tale indeed. He has traveled to South America on one of his orchid adventures in search of the once-elusive *Phrag. kovachii*. After years of going through the various legal maneuvers required for importing restricted slipper orchids into the USA, Piping Rock Orchids is one of the few American nurseries with extensive stocks of *Phrag. kovachii* (all totally legal and documented). These are very large flowers ranging in size from 6" to over 9" in some cases. These are not as difficult to grow as you might think, however they are very slow to get going, you just need some patience.

Glen will be bringing plants to sell at the Orchid Quest. Pre-orders are definitely welcomed with a 10% discount. Order through the web site, noting to bring it with him; this saves shipping and handling. Or, just e-mail him your want list. You may contact him at [Piping Rock Orchids.com](http://PipingRockOrchids.com) or call: 518-882-9002.

Glen was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and is presently a Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. Glen has won numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, WW Wilson Award and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium". He rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book.

### RADIO SHOW ON 90.7 FM, "Garden Talk"

Turn your Radio (90.7 FM) on January 27, 2012 to listen to the **"Garden Talk"** show with Larry Meiller. Larry's featured speaker will be Chuck Acker of Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery. Chuck will talk about growing orchids, Orchid Quest and he will respond to call-in questions from the audience. The show can be heard from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. The first hour is repeated on the next day (Saturday January 28, 2012) from 7 AM to 8 AM.



## NOVEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

### First place

Gary Brendemuehl	Fredclarkera After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS
Gary Brendemuehl	Paphiopedilum Hiro Luna (S. Gratrix 'Magic Bell' x Bella Lucia 'Burgundy Fusion')
Gary Brendemuehl	Paphiopedilum [S. Gratrix x (Conco-Bellatulum x Gemini)]
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paphiopedilum charlesworthii</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Stanhopea wardii</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	Paphiopedilum spicerianum-Jolly Green Gem-Hallo x Valwine "x-mas Robe"
Meg McLaughlin	Bc Kosh Wallis 'Paradise' (B Little Stars x C Caudebec)
Meg McLaughlin	Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'
Meg McLaughlin	Phragmipedium Cape Sunset (Eric Young x schlimi)
Richard Narf	<i>Microptera apiculata</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Dendrobium oligophyllum</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Maxillaria sophronitis</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Pleurothallis minutalis</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Stellis hallii</i>
Sue Reed	Stellis species white
Judy Stevenson	Epicatanthe Volcano Trick 'Fireball'
Judy Stevenson	Paphiopedilum (Makuli-Curtsii)-Maudiae x Paph Maudiae 'Napa Valley'
Steven Thimling	Ascda Fuchs Gold x Ascda Yip Sum Wah
Steven Thimling	<i>Dendrobium rigidum</i>
Steven Thimling	<i>Oncidium pusillum</i>
Steven Thimling	<i>Tuberolabium quisumbingii</i>

### Second Place

Jeff Baylis	Pot. Burana Beauty 'Burana'
Gary Brendemuehl	Paphiopedilum Triple Bella (Triple Trix x Bella Lucia)
Bob Lasseter	Neostylis 'Lou Sneary'
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Galeandra baueri</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	Lc Acker's Madison x C Acker's Angel
Irene Mackie	Paphiopedilum Hsinying Majukun 'Dennis Choice' x <i>Paph. Lawrenceanum</i> 'Tradition'
Irene Mackie	Oncidium Twinkle Red
Sue Reed	Masdevallia Angel Heart (igneae x infracta)
Sue Reed	<i>Paphiopedilum henryanum</i>

### Third place

Jeff Baylis	<i>Cattleya bowringiana</i>
David Kohlwey	Brassidium Longlen 'Bill Switzer' (Brassia arcuigera x Oncidium leucochilum)
Wayne King	Beallara Marfitch (Miltassia Charles M. Fitch x Oda. Fremar)
Bob Lasseter	Bc Maikai 'Improved'
Gary Lensmeyer	Phal Venus (lindenii x equestris)
Irene Mackie	<i>Stelis argentata</i> "red"
Meg McLaughlin	Blc George King 'Serendipity' x C walkeriana 'Pendentive'
Richard Narf	Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'
Richard Narf	<i>Paphiopedilum Harrisianum</i>
Sue Reed	Vanda Sansai 'Blue'
Judy Stevenson	P Yerba Buena x Acker's Pinnacle
Steven Thimling	Phragmipedium Eric Young

You know you are addicted to orchids when ...

...you leave the dog in the back yard with an automatic feeder while on vacation but hire someone to check the humidity needs of your orchids, and you encourage them to sit with your plants for a while and spend 'quality time'.

## WHY DO A TABLETOP EXHIBIT?

by Sue Reed

Tabletop exhibits (Class 4) are fun to do and educational for the exhibitor and as well as educational and interesting for the visitors at the orchid show. Small exhibits give you an opportunity to highlight your orchid related talents and interests. The exhibit could be put into one of the various open classes such as educational, orchid related collectables, personally created orchid related art (including photography, quilting, beadwork, knitting, ceramics, leaded glass to name a few) as well as orchid flower arrangements. (Check the show book for the various classes that exhibits and items could be exhibited for judging.)

Your creativity and imagination are your only limits. One thing that is consistent across the different types of exhibits is to remember that orchids are the important element, so don't let the staging extras take the emphasis away from orchids. A table cover and small backdrop help set off the display with the items arranged in various heights is the most pleasing to the eye. A large part of the display is the presentation of the items/information. Great items in a

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required by January 27, 2012. Please send your check to the OGG, PO Box 5432, Madison, WI 53705.

This year we are taking lunch orders for Saturday and Sunday. On both Saturday and Sunday, you have the choice of boxed lunches for \$11.90. The OQ committee will try to bring the lunches to you by 11:30 AM. The advantage of the box lunch is that you can take it with you when attending the educational programs. You must get your order in for the box lunches by January 27 to Heidi Maenner ([hwhetmore@gmail.com](mailto:hwhetmore@gmail.com))

Come to the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to hear from the committee chairs about the responsibilities and plans for implementation of the, set-up committee, awards committee, display committee, judging committee, OGG table, plant room, raffle committee and ticket committee.

Parking tickets are available on Friday morning February 3, 2012 at the registration table. This year we will not have quilts but there will be several professional artists who are submitting their pieces of artwork. See you January 15<sup>th</sup> at Olbrich!

**PRE-ORDER OQ LUNCHESES**  
Lunches available at Orchid Quest  
on Saturday Feb 4, 2012

### *The Classic Boxed Lunch*

Choice of Deli Sandwiches on a selection of  
Bakery Fresh Wheat, Vienna or Marble Rye  
Smoked Turkey & Baby Swiss  
Choice Ham & Aged Cheddar  
Slow Roast Beef & Provolone  
Roast Vegetable & Havarti Dill  
Individual Bag of Potato Chips  
Whole Fresh Fruit  
Home-Baked gourmet Cookie  
Soft Drink

Cost \$ 12.90

You must get your order in for the box lunches by  
January 27th to Heidi Maenner  
[hwhetmore@gmail.com](mailto:hwhetmore@gmail.com)



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## **TABLETOP EXHIBIT**

poorly set up display detract from the items, resulting in lack of interest in the exhibit by the public and by the judges.

I have found that polyester fabric generally in a dark color, plain black or dark green set off most items very well. Small boxes under the fabric will give a varied height for interest. Three pieces of pegboard laced together make a nice small backdrop when covered with fabric.

So what to put into your exhibit? If you wanted to do an educational exhibit you would need to pick some thing or type of orchids that interests you or that you would like to learn more about! An educational exhibit can be all photos and printed information, or a mix of orchid plants, orchid growing media with printed information. Remember to have a theme and stick to it. The information should not be over whelming by being too much to read and too technical. Make it something that you would enjoy seeing at a show.

Collectibles could be anything orchid related from pottery, cards, jewelry, and dishes arranged in an interesting manner. These would be items that you have not made yourself. The collection can be judged (class 106) as well as the exhibit in class 4. (Check the show book for the exact class numbers.)

An exhibit of items that you have made would be entered into the Art Entries (classes 103-105). You must be the person that created the items to have them in one of the classes 103-105. If the items are something that you purchased then it would be in class 106 for Collectibles.

photographs and painted ceramics have been popular items for Guild members to show off their talents, but other possibilities could be but not limited, to beadwork, knitted items, metal art and jewelry. Think about an exhibit for this year and if you are interested please contact Judy Stevenson for Orchid Quest 2012!

Good luck and have fun!

### **Up-Coming Events**

- **January 28-29, 2012**—Winter Carnival Orchid Show, St. Paul MN
- **January 28-29**— Grand Rapids Orchid Society, MI
- **February 4-5**— Orchid Growers' Guild Orchid Quest
- **February 25-26** - Show for the Greater Lansing Orchid Society, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI
- **March 3-4**—NEWOS Orchid Show, Neenah, WI
- **March 10-11**— Illowa Orchid Society Show, Bettendorf, IA
- **April 13-15**-MAOC in conjunction with Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Show, Indianapolis, IN
- **April 28-29**— "Celebrate Orchids," Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 13-14**— Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 26-28**— MAOC in conjunction with Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, Independence, MO
- **November 14-23** — 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore
- **September, 11-16, 2012** \*Australian Orchid Conference 2012, Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia.  
Contact: For Information visit website or [aocconference@dodo.com.au](mailto:aocconference@dodo.com.au).

# FAVORITE RECIPES FROM A SELF-CONFESSED “VANILLAHOIC”

By Ken Cameron

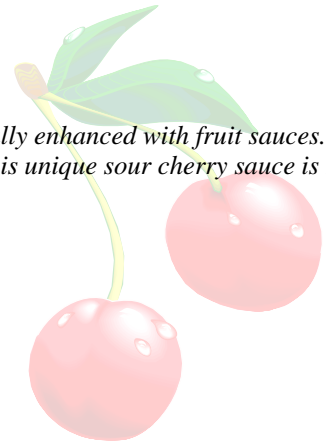
## MAIN DISHES

### Roast Meat with Vanilla - Cherry Sauce

*The flavor of roasted meats such as lamb, pork, venison, duck, or chicken can be wonderfully enhanced with fruit sauces. Orange - rosemary, red currant, and blackberry - sage sauces are among the classics, but this unique sour cherry sauce is made extra special and less tart with the addition of Vanilla.*

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp oil or pan drippings
- 1/3 cup finely diced shallots
- 1/4 cup ruby port (or hearty red wine)
- 1 Vanilla bean, split lengthwise (Tahitian Vanilla is recommended)
- 1/4 chicken stock or water
- 1/3 cup dried sour cherries
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 tsp thyme leaves
- 1 Tbs butter



Sautee the shallots in the oil until softened, then add the port and Vanilla bean. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Add all the remaining ingredients except the butter, and cook until reduced by half and thickened. Prior to serving, stir in the butter to enrich the sauce. Serve on the side in a gravy dish or spooned over the cooked meat before serving.

### Seafood with Vanilla - Coconut Sauce

*Vanilla is widely cultivated throughout the Pacific Islands of French Polynesia where fresh seafood of all types (shrimp, lobster, fish) is an important part of local cuisine. Another main staple is coconut. This dish or any variation on it, marries the flavors of Tahiti and the islands of the Pacific. Vanilla works very well with seafood, pork and other savory dishes. The adventurous chef should use this dish as an inspiration to consider adding Vanilla extract to other main course dishes rather than just to desserts.*

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs of fresh seafood: peeled shrimp, lobster meat, or firm white fish (monk fish would be an ideal choice)
- 2 Tbs oil
- 1/2 cup rum
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 whole Vanilla bean, split lengthwise (Tahitian Vanilla bean preferred)
- 3/4 cup coconut milk
- Cooked white rice
- Lemon & lime wedges for garnish

Heat the oil in a frying pan and sauté the seafood until it is browned (3 - 5 minutes is plenty). Transfer to a plate and keep warm by covering loosely with aluminum foil.

Use a paper towel to absorb and discard any of the excess oil in the pan, then add the rum and vanilla bean to the pan. Continue to cook until the liquid has reduced down to just a few tablespoons. By this point the alcohol will have been cooked off. Doesn't that smell divine? Then add the cream and coconut milk, and continue to reduce the mixture until you achieve a desired thickness for the sauce (this is a matter of personal preference).

Remove the Vanilla bean and discard it. Return the seafood to the pan just long enough to reheat it slightly. Serve over the rice, and garnish with the lemons and limes. An orchid flower placed on top for decoration would add an appropriate touch of the exotic!

