

May
2013

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



From Our President: Next Meeting May 19th

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard coordinating and working at the Spring Sale April 5th and 6th: Terri Jozwiak, Jill Hynum, Sandy Delamater, Keith Larson, Audrey Lucier, Lynn West, Steve Thimling, Sue Reed, Liz Barlow, Don Lamb and Liz Wood. Your help is why our guild is successful. The spring sale benefits OGG, Orchids Garden Center and Olbrich along with the general public and pansy lovers.

We will have elections for the Board in May. There is one general board position open. Consider "lending us your ear," your opinion, your enthusiasm and your energy. The term is 3 years and meets monthly the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

We need an MAOC (Mid America Orchid Congress) representative to replace our talented Wayne King who is stepping down. Please contact Lorraine if interested. OGG does assist with some expenses for attendance at MAOC meetings.



Photograph by Jill Hynum
Judy Stevenson and OGG President Lorraine Snyder and Orchid Digest Award [See page 6 for story]

Meeting Dates

May 19 - Meeting Room
June 9th Picnic - Lodi
September 15—Meeting Room
October 20—Meeting Room
November 17—Orchids
December 15— Meeting Room

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

Up-Coming Events

September 14, 15 – Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

Officers and Committees

President:

Lorraine Snyder (2014)
lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2013)
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Secretary:

Lynn West (2013)
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Treasurer:

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lodijoz@charter.net

Board:

Judy Williamson (2014)
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Gary Brendemuehl (2013)
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Sue Reed (2015)
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May is our member plant and supply auction, so round up your extras and bring them in. 50% of your proceeds goes to OGG or you can simply donate. Price your items accordingly. We will provide some slips at the meeting. Rich Narf will be our auctioneer.

Sunday June 9th marks the end of our season with our picnic at Meg McLaughlin's in Lodi. More to follow next month.

—Lorraine Snyder

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Rich Narf

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Liaisons:
Alliant: Judy Stevenson
AOS: Jill Hynum
MAOC: Judith Rapacz
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum

Bloomin' On at Orchids & Garden Centre

Fragrances/odors can play an important role in attracting pollinators to facilitate reproduction in plants. These natural enticing “perfumes” or in some cases “stinkers” cause one to take notice of a plant in a special way beyond the usual attraction to the bloom itself. One of my favorite “smellers” is the coconut orchid, *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, which happened to be in brilliant bloom at OGC during my recent visit. The flower draws attention because it smells like a Pina Coloda drink. This variety labeled as *Maxillaria tenuifolia* 'Dark Clone' displayed many large blooms colored vibrant red with yellow speckles. The plant is relatively small with pseudobulbs carrying grass-like foliage. It is primarily a low elevation species found from Mexico to Costa Rica.

Intermediate to slightly higher light is acceptable to flower this easy grower. In their natural habitats, these orchids receive a winter rest period where water is less available. For indoor culture, water copiously during active growth, however, the plants should be kept drier at the roots between watering from late November until the end of March being careful not to allow the pseudobulbs to become too wrinkled. Optimal temperatures should be in the intermediate range with winter nights from 55 to 62 degrees Fahrenheit and days of 58 to 75. Summer temperatures can be several degrees warmer but it does like a little cooler night temps in winter. Expect blooms along with the wonderful scent to appear from March – April. The growth habit can be influenced by the size of the pot. Pot-bound plants have a tendency to grow upward. Wide pots or baskets with plenty of horizontal space will allow a more spreading habit. Simple propagation of the plants can be through division. The following link describes this process.

<http://orchidsamore.com/tutorials/Maxillaria%20tenuiflora.htm>

I have never seen a vanilla orchid flower in person until, to my surprise, sprawled along side a OGC greenhouse wall was a long vine of *Vanilla planifolia* in bloom.

Early attempts to get the vanilla bean plant to fruit outside Mexico and Central America failed because the pollinator, the *Melipona* bee, didn't exist outside of the natural habitat of the plant. Eventually, hand pollination was an accepted practice to initiate fruit set. Only then was global production of vanilla cultivars possible.

(Continued on page 3)



Photographs by Gary Lensmeyer
Maxillaria tenuifolia

(Continued from page 2)

Vanilla grows as a vine and must be supported since it reaches long and high as possible. The plant exudes a substance that adheres the vine to solid surfaces. Growers will often fold the higher parts of the plant downward so the plant stays at heights accessible to standing human. This practice supposedly greatly stimulates flowering.

The vanilla flower lasts about one day, sometimes less. Typically, starting in early spring, these delicate blooms open mid-morning and then close at night, signaling death of the bloom. Pollination must occur within the brief blooming period. Chuck says that a 12 hour window for pollination is what he usually sees.

Optimum temperatures for cultivation are 59–86 °F during the day and 59–68 °F at night. The vanilla vine likes bright but not



Close-up of one of the many blooms on a *Vanilla planifolia*. Below, left is a picture a vanilla bean on the same vine. Notice the spent flower which was hand pollinated, a necessity to get the bean to form.

direct light, and humidity should be around 50% or higher. Vanilla grows best in moist sphagnum moss and should be fertilized twice monthly with a balanced fertilizer. Vanilla plants are reproduced either by stem cutting or by tissue culture.

Here is a link that describes how to grow *Vanilla plantifolia*:

http://www.ehow.com/how_5513104_grow-vanilla-beans-indoors.html#ixzz2RCtxgPM2

I'm tempted to purchase one of the larger OGC vanilla plants and give it a try. Supposedly it takes three years to get blooms but with the larger robust plants the time may be shorter. I can be patient!

Happy Growing!

Gary Lensmeyer

RECAP APRIL MEETING Work-Shop on Orchid Pollination

At the last meeting, Chuck Acker conducted a 'lab' on pollinating orchids. He brought a selection of *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Phragmepedium* for the 'students' to work on along with new razor blades and toothpicks. Chuck has been hybridizing orchids for decades and recently he and Linnzi have been ramping up their efforts. The work is only for those with long-term plans because it can take up to a year for a seed pod of some species to mature. Then it is sent off to a laboratory to be 'flasked.' Then the seeds take time to germinate, more time to develop into seedlings large enough to be removed and potted and then mature into blooming size plants. Most of Chuck's students were interested from a purely intellectual perspective.

Chuck played a video that showed how to pollinate each of the three species and then students went to



Photography by Jill Hynum
Chuck assisting Carrie Wiesman

work. The plant structures vary slightly but the principle was the same for each: remove the labellum (lip or pouch) with a sharp blade to expose the reproductive area; taking a toothpick or tweezers, remove the anther cap containing the pollen masses; separate the pollen masses from the anther cap; and finally place the pollen onto the stigmatic surface. Voila! That's it; the whole process is deceptively simple.



Selection of blooms for pollination practice

In this lab exercise we were self-pollinating flowers removed from the plant. In an actual pollination, the bloom is left on the plant. Chuck advised that when making a pollination between two plants, choose the plant with the most desirable characteristics as the 'maternal' or 'pod' bearing parent; and remove any pollen from the 'maternal' plant before pollinating it from the 'paternal' plant. If successful pollination occurs, the stem will swell. Just before maturity, the green pod should be packaged in a paper envelop and immediately sent to a lab for flasking. Dry seed should also be packaged in paper with all the seams securely tape to avoid loss of seed. This package may be stored in a cool dry place for several weeks before being sent for flasking. Pollen can be stored up to six months in small wax paper envelopes under refrigeration.

After all of this effort, sometimes the pod contains no viable seeds. Failure rates, even for professionals, can be up to 30%, depending on the species. Audrey Lucier optimistically tried pollinating two of her orchids:

"I had two nice phrags blooming. I was excited to have the chance to make a third generation *Phrag kovachii* hybrid from my Phrag Suzanne Decker and a *Phrag schlimii* x self. That *Phrag schlimii* is a really cute little guy that has already opened three flowers with two more to open on a branched inflorescence. If successful, which I consider a remote possibility, I imagine a big pink flower on a shorter inflorescence with a little yellow in center from the schlimii. I was able to smear pollen on the stigmatic surface. Whether it will take or not is for the future to tell. So far, so good. Mostly, it was a fun experiment. I learned to see orchid parts and appreciate the work of natural pollinators. "

IOS AOS AWARDED PLANTS

Paph Orchid Joe's Curly Q 'Alex Spirals' (*Paph* Spiderman x *Paph philipinense*), HCC 79 points, Sam Tsui's Orchid Inn

Paph Memoria Gabriel Cayrol 'Danielle', AM 83 points, Sam Tsui's Orchid Inn



Phrag Fritz Schomburg 'Red Sunset' (*Phrag* Kovachii x *Besseae*), HCC 78 points, Sam Tsui's Orchid Inn [below]



Phrag Fritz Schomburg 'Red Sunset'

Photograph by Judy Stevenson



Phal White Dream 'V3' (*P.* Morning Moon x *P.* Joseph Hampton), AM 83 points, Hausermanns'

IOS Ribbon Results OGG 2013

Set-up & take-down: Judy Stevenson, Lorraine Snyder, Denise Baylis

Exhibit First Place

First Place

Susan Reed *Pleurothallis grobyi*

Second Place

Melissa Williams *Laelia purpurata*
Audrey Lucier *Phragmipedium schlimii*
Terri Jozwiak *Dendrobium bracteosum*
Terri Jozwiak *Bulbophyllum makoyanum*

Third Place

Jeffrey Baylis *Encyclia citrina*
Jeffrey Baylis *Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice (P longifolium x P. sargentianum 'Candor')*
Terri Jozwiak *Oncidium Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific'*
Nancy Thomas *Dendrobium Andréé Millar (Den. atrovioleaceum x convolutum)*



Epidendrum Pretty Lady, IOS Show

Judy Stevenson Nominated for Orchid Digest Award

At the April meeting, Judy Stevenson was presented with the Orchid Digest Award by Lorraine Snyder.

Judy is the heart and soul of our organization, and is much deserving of this award. Judy has held many key positions in our guild, including vice-president, while she assisted the president with Orchid Quest and the annual Spring sale. She then served as OGG President for two years. Since stepping down as president, Judy has continued to plan all monthly programs for our membership meetings and co-chair Orchid Quest. That is not all she has done, Judy spearheaded the revision of our by-laws, created a membership manual and began the documentation of the history of the Guild. Last year she, along with another member, planned and organized a 25th Anniversary celebration of OGG.

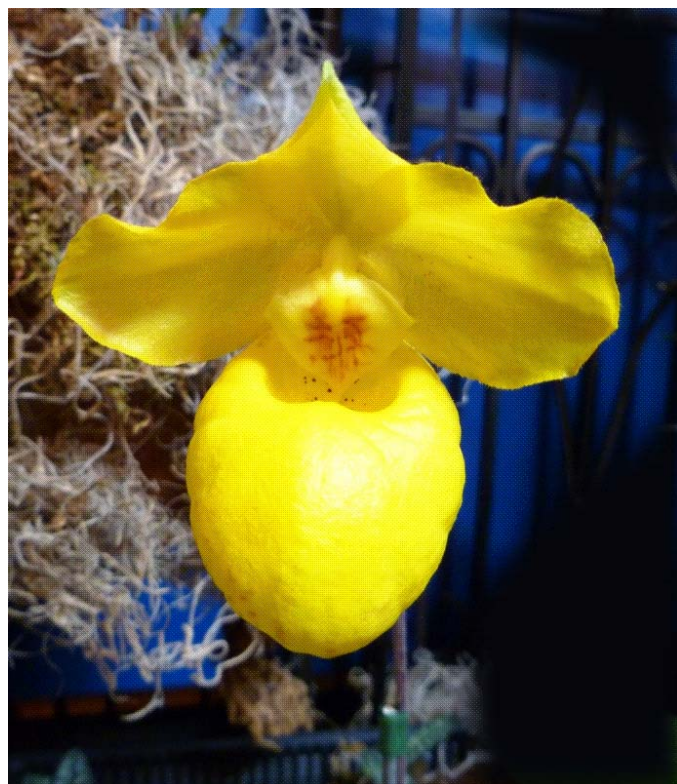
It is with our most sincere gratitude that we award Judy the Orchid Digest Award.

Lorraine Snyder, President
Madison Orchid Growers Guild

IOS SHOW WINNERS



Photograph by Judy Stevenson
This miniature from the Wisconsin Orchid Society Exhibit won Best of Show



Paph armeniacum

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This *Paph Louise Jernigan* was pulled for AOS judging



Cynorkis uncinata

THANK YOU

The editors would like to thank Jill Hynum, Lorraine Snyder, Audrey Lucier, Judy Stevenson, Lynn West, and Gary Lensmeyer for their contributions to this newsletter

OGG RIBBON JUDGING APRIL 2013

First Place

Terri Jozwiak	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lefty Kei (William Ambler 'Boris' x <i>sanderianum</i> 'Dorr')
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Dendrobium bracteosum</i>
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum rothchildianum</i>
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Sarcoglottis sceptrodes</i>
Mosher/River	<i>Encyclia cochleata</i> ('J & L' x 'Spy Hill')
Mosher/River	<i>Phrag Jason Fischer 3N</i>
Mosher/River	<i>Oncidioda Chaculatum</i> 'Golden Pacific'
Sue Reed	<i>Ponerorchis graminifolia</i>
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Coelogyne usitana</i>
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phalaenopsis Liodoro</i>
Judy Stevenson	<i>Lycaste brevispatha</i>
Melissa Williams	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Volcano Blue 'Volcano Queen' (Blc Lois McNeil x Catt Blue Boy)

Second Place

Terri Jozwiak	Wils Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings' (<i>Odontocidium</i> Tiger Butter x <i>Odontioda</i> Remembrance)
Audrey Lucier	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Suzanne Decker (<i>kovachii</i> x Cape Sunset)
Audrey Lucier	<i>Phragmipedium schlimii</i>
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Dendrobium</i> Suree Peach
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mistral's Sunrise Flame 'Mendenhall' (Golden Bells x Habsburg)
Mosher/River	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Nobby's Amy 'Wilda's Pink Butterflies' (Be Glad x Rothschildiana)
Judy Stevenson	<i>Coelogyne usitana</i>
Melissa Williams	Bc Hippodamia x <i>C aclandiae</i>

Third Place

Terri Jozwiak	Slc Acker's Romance (Acker's Madison x Golden Wax)
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Phalaenopsis bastianii</i>
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Iwanagara</i> Apple Blossom
Mosher/River	<i>Doritaenopsis</i> Sogo Vivien '7858' (Sogo Alice x Zuma's Pixie)
Melissa Williams	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Golden Peoker 'BL' (Misty Green x Liu Tuen-Shen)

Photograph by Denise Baylis



Iwanagara Apple Blossom on left, grown by Meg McLaughlin; right is a miniature orchid, *Ponerorchis graminifolia*, grown by Sue Reed



Photograph by Jill Hynum

ORCHID NOMENCLATURE MADE EASY?

How often have you seen a fabulous flower at Orchid Quest and have to find out what it is? After we look at the label we are mystified by the name and what it means. This article will attempt to explain.

Many of us are confused by the names of orchid plants and what they mean. The [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature](#) (ICBN) defines a hierarchical structure into which all plants can be classified. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature defines the naming structure for cultivated plants. Once you understand how these systems work you can find a lot of valuable information about a plant from its name.

For naming orchid species, the ranks of Genus and Species must be used plus Variety when applicable. More levels are possible but the ranks of subspecies, subvariety, form and subform are rarely used in naming orchids.

Definitions

Genus: a group of species which through their likeness are more closely related to each other than they are to others, both naturally occurring and hybrids (for example *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Cattleya*, etc.)

Species: a taxonomic group that:

- Share similar characteristics
- Naturally reproduce in isolation from other groups
- a single lineage derived from a common ancestor (for example *Dendrobium bigibbum*, *Cattleya forbesii*, etc.)

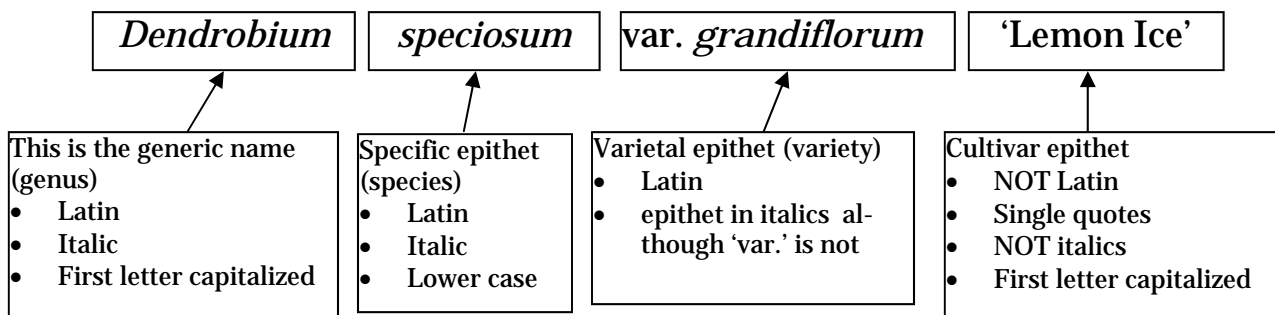
Variety: A wild variant or subspecies which differs by growth habitat, size, etc. (for example *Dendrobium bigibbum* var. *compactum*)

Forma: Differentiates between the type species and a significant variety of the species [often used to differentiate between color variants within a species]

Cultivar: Any named individual and its' vegetatively produced progeny. A particularly good example of an orchid may be given a cultivar name to uniquely identify that plant from other lesser quality plants of the same species. That plant and all its vegetatively produced progeny, eg. mericlones, and divisions, can use that cultivar name, but not sexually produced progeny, ie. from seed. All plants bearing the same varietal name should be identical and flower identically under the same conditions.

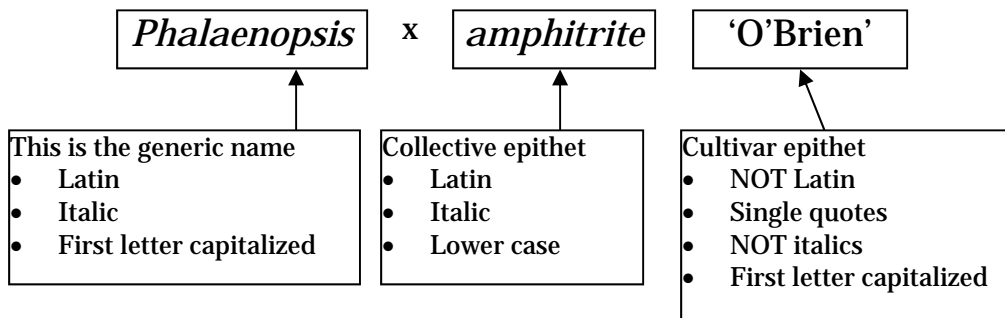
SPECIES

How do we write out a species name?



Natural Interspecific Hybrids

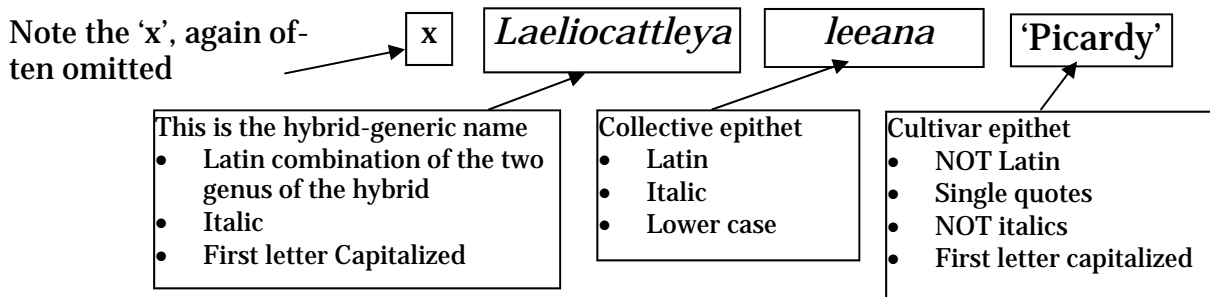
(Naturally occurring hybrids within a genus)



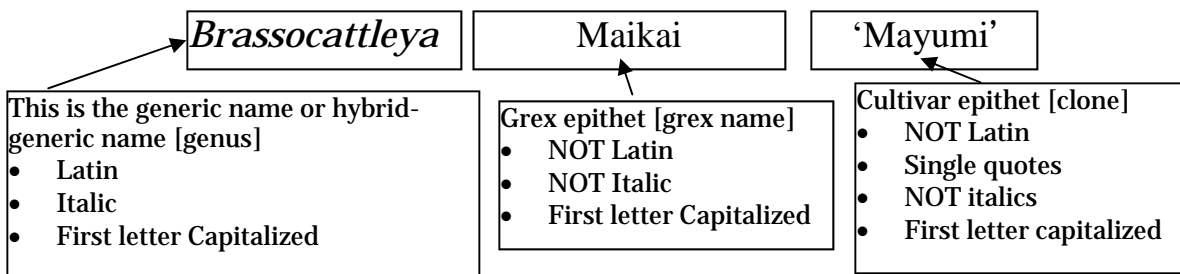
[A natural hybrid between *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* and *Phalaenopsis stuartiana*. Frequently the 'x' is omitted but to be technically correct it should be included]

Natural Intergeneric Hybrids

(Naturally occurring hybrids between different genus)



Artificial Hybrids



This particular plant is a **hybrid-generic**. The name is created from the cross of plants from two different genus . The hybrid-generic name is normally composed of a combination of the names of both genus, in this case a cross between a *Brassavola nodosa* and a *Cattleya bowringiana*, thus the genus is called *Brassocattleya*. There is no varietal epithet possible in a hybrid's name. Only species can have a varietal epithet.

Another example is *Fredclarkara* After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS , a cross between *Mormodia* Painted Desert and *Catasetum* Donna Wise. In this case the new hybrid-generic is named after Fred Clark. We can determine from the rest of the name that it is a specific culti-

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var of After Dark called 'SVO Black Pearl' and that it has been awarded FCC by AOS.

GreX is the name used to identify a group of offspring of any given hybrid cross. When a grex name is registered, all additional identical crosses, i.e. any plants produced from seeds of that cross or any asexual divisions of the cross all have the same grex name.

Listed Parents

Orchids may be written as a cross of the parent plants. This is normally due to the hybrid not being a registered hybrid so the parent plants are individually listed. This is often done by growers when the parents are awarded plants thus making the children more likely to be high quality and thus making the seedlings more desirable.

<i>Phrag. Acker's Superstar '4N' x Phrag. wallisii</i>	
Female parent (pod)	<i>Phrag. Acker's Superstar '4N'</i>
Male parent (pollen)	<i>Phrag. wallisii</i>

The female parent is always listed first when a hybrid name is written as the cross of the parents. Normally, when the genus of both parents is the same, the second occurrence of the genus is omitted, for example *Paphiopedilum Berenice (Paph philippinense x lowii)*

Ploidy

Ploidy, is not strictly part of an orchid name, but is often seen appended to the end of orchid names. Ploidy is the number of sets of chromosomes for the orchid. A normal orchid has two sets of chromosomes (2N), one set from each parent. Some orchids have more than the normal two sets, with three, four or even more sets of chromosomes. Thus the '4N' appended to this name indicates that it is tetraploid

The Big Box stores frequently sell mass-produced orchids labeled only with the genus and cultivar. Supposedly the Genus/Cultivar Epithet form cannot be used where the same cultivar epithet is being used in the same genus. However there is no place where these cultivar epithets are recorded. When purchasing orchids so labeled, remember you cannot show plants with unknown parentage for AOS awards and you cannot register hybrids made from them.

DNR FIELD TRIPS

Orchid Field Trip to Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest

Beginning Saturday April 27 and every Saturday through June 1 there will be a field trip starting at 10 AM from the Park Headquarters. The headquarters and visitor center is located on highway 59, half way between the towns of Palmyra and Eagle.



Please wear proper footwear (rubber boots are best) because the group will drive to the areas of the wild flowers and orchids in cars. Once parked, the group will be walking through mud and water. The tours will not be cancelled if it is raining. They will only be cancelled if there is tornado or a bolt of lightning. Park office 262/594-2757.

FIELD STRIP, SUNDAY, JULY 7th Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area

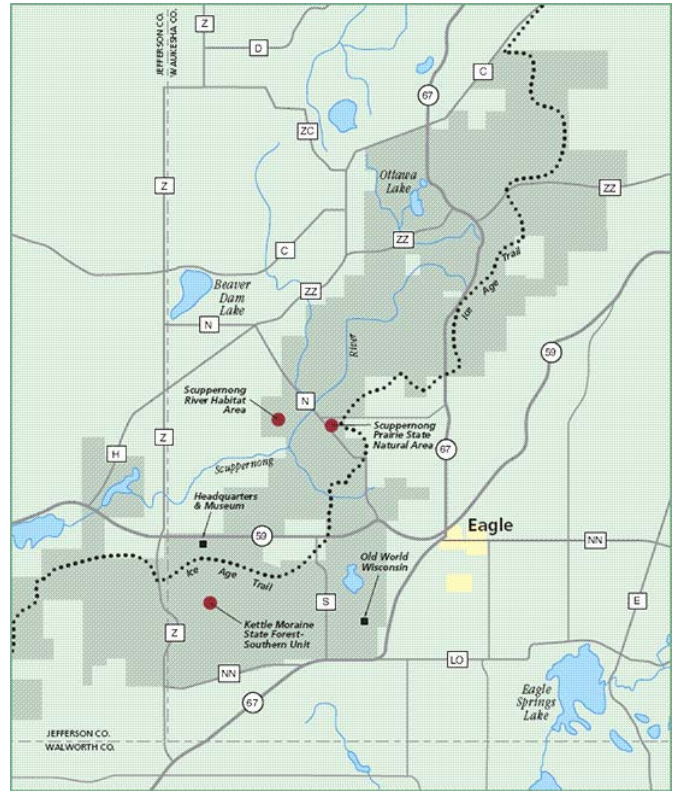
We will conduct a survey of Prairie White fringed orchids, but we may also see Poweshiek skipperlings (threatened small moth-like butterflies) and other plants and animals of the Scuppernong Prairie in Waukesha County. If time and interest allow, we may visit a few other prairies nearby. Pack a lunch. We will eat at Paradise Springs (Park stickers required). Be prepared for hot weather and bring plenty of water. Field trip will be rain or shine unless severe weather is forecasted. Bring binoculars and GPS unit if you have one.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate hiking over some uneven terrain.

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Trip Leader: Scott Weber (608-356-0179)

Directions: Meet at the Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area parking lot on County N south of the intersection of County N and Wilton Road.



ERRATA

Audrey Lucier earned a 3rd place ribbon for her P. Shanghai at NEWOS

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **September 14, 15** – Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, “Fall in Love with Orchids”, Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee, WI
- **September 20-22**, Chicagoland Orchid Festival, (Natt's Orchids and Hausermann), see www.chicagolandorchidfest.com
- **October, 19-20** -- Second Annual Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale, Noelridge Park Green House, 4900 Council Street NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- **April 30-May 4, 2014**— Orchid Society of Minnesota is hosting the Spring 2014, Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting, Slipper Orchid Alliance, International Phalaenopsis Alliance and the Pleurothallid Alliance, “Orchids A Growing Obsession”, Doubletree by Hilton, 1-494 at Hwy 100 in Bloomington
- **September, 10-14, 2014**— 21st World Orchid Conference, “Orchids: Gold in the Green Age”, Johannesburg, South Africa