

February
2013

The Orchid Grower



Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org

Dear Orchid Growers' Guild members,

We are very excited about this year's Orchid Quest; it is less than one month away! I am including a list of events, important deadlines, and some reminders regarding this year's show.

Event Calendar:

Tom Mirenda will be the guest speaker on this year's "All About Living With Carol Koby" show, and will be joined by OGG members, Judy Stevenson, Jill Hynum and Heidi Maenner.

Meeting

February 17 - Meeting Room
March 17 - Meeting Room
April 6 - Spring Orchid Sale
April 21 - Meeting Room
May 19 - Meeting Room
June Picnic - 24th

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

Up-Coming Events:

Officers and Committees

President:

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

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2013)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Lynn West (2013)
west@mail.slh.wisc.edu

Treasurer:

Terri Jozwiak (2014)
lodijox@charter.net

Board:

Judy Williamson (2014)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

Gary Brendemuehl (2013)
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Sue Reed (2015)
greed@chorus.net

Away Shows:

Rich Narf

Thursday, January 31st: Leigh Mills of NBC-15 will be interviewing Chuck Acker and Lorraine Snyder about Orchid Quest during the 5PM show. What a great way to kick off the Orchid Quest weekend!

Deadlines:

Box Lunch Order and Dinner Reservation for the OGG Banquet is due by January 27th. (See below for more details*.)

Plant List for Orchid Quest Registration including plant class is due by the evening of Tuesday, January 29th. Please send your plant list to Sue Reed: greed@chorus.net.

ALL registered plants need to be at the Alliant Center on Friday, February 1st, by 11AM. (The sooner, the better! J)

*Please e-mail box lunch orders to Terri Jozwiak: lodijox@charter.net and RSVP with Judy Stevenson for the OGG Saturday night banquet.

Reminders:

We still need sponsors for some of the awards. If interested, please contact Jill Hynum (jhynum@sbcglobal.net).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Orchid Quest**
- **Bloom'n On' At OGC**
- **What does it mean to become an AOS judge?**
- **OGG Ribbon Judging January 2013**

Hospitality:
Volunteer

Librarian:
Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Membership:
Carrie Weisman
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Newsletter:
Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net
Tom Clevon
tdclevon@yahoo.com

Orchid Quest 2012:
Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net
Heidi Whetmore
hwhetmore@gmail.com

Programs:
Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net

Ribbon Judging:
Lynn West
west@mail.slh.wisc.edu

Web Master:
Gary Brendemuehl
gbrendemuehl@frontier.com

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



Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn (Astarte x Gwen Hannen) at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis

On a recent trip to Washington DC. Jeff and I took the opportunity to visit the National Botanic Garden, part of the Smithsonian Museum system. It is also the base of our OQ speaker, Tom Miranda.

The Garden maintains 13,000 accessions, which equates to about 26,000 plants. These are used for exhibition, study and exchange with other institutions. The Garden's noteworthy collections include economic plants, medicinal plants, orchids, carnivorous plants, cacti and succulents, bromeliads, cycads and ferns. Of particular interest to us, were the blooming examples from their extensive orchid collection, some shared here.

Denise

Donations to the auction and raffle are always appreciated. Please contact Joan Smalley (smalleyjoan@aol.com) or Lorraine Snyder (lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com), if you would like to make a donation.



Vanda Doctor Anek 'Fuchs Gouy' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis

Message from Sue regarding the OGG Exhibit:

“This year we are trying a tropical garden (for the OGG exhibit). Therefore, props of nice foliage plants (please clean up their leaves and cut off brown ends), bamboo furniture, curtain, nice plant containers...” would work great! Basically, “anything that would work in a tropical garden we might be able to use. Darker props work best.” Please contact Sue Reed with questions: greed@chorus.net

BLOOM'N ON' AT OGC

Ascocenda Princess Mikasa Pink (Ascda. Royal Sapphire x V coerulea)

The Princess is obviously our hybrid for the month.

The flowers & growth habit are very similar to V Coerulea which originally was found in mountain regions of northeast India. Later it was found in the mountains of Burma, Thailand & Southwest China. Ascda Royal Sapphire has Asctm. Curvifolium & Vanda tricolor in its parentage. These two, plus V coerulea all grow in cool areas at 3000-5000 ft. therefore, they can tolerate cool/cold conditions. They obviously get good air movement, so don't forget to make sure you have good air circulation in your inside area. I have also left mine outside until almost frost time, but generally bring them



Ascocenda Princess Mikasa Pink
Photo by Gary Lensmeyer

in when it gets down in the 40-50 degree nights. Others bring them in much sooner. I hang them in my East (good morning sun) or South (not full sun because of the neighbor's trees) windows. Would like to use my West, but no place to hang them there. Night temps get down to near 60 & days in the windows can be up to 80 if there is sun.

They usually grow high up in rough-barked trees that are not exceedingly leafy so that the plants are fully exposed to the sun, rain, and wind. The roots sprawl over the dry rough bark with no moss or lichen present. This insures they are able to dry very rapidly after they get wet. They grow best if they are not in a pot. Use a mount or web basket. If you use the basket as I do, you may want to line it with coconut husk (just the fuzzy stuff, not the chunks) & then put in a very coarse medium such as the new Orchiaata bark. If you use Orchiaata, you don't have to add anything else to open up

the medium. I grow most of mine simply in the husk. Have been doing that for over 10 years & have had very good luck. The goal is to have good air circulation

around the roots & quick drying. They want lots & lots of sunlight. Do take them outside in the summer or they may not do so well for you. Mine go out in the sunniest place I can find with 30% or less shade cloth. All depends on how much natural shade you have from buildings, your or your neighbor's trees.

You may have from 5-15 or more flowers on a spike & they last for months. Right now I have one that opened in October and is still in flower. They do need cooler temps to stay in flower & they aren't fragrant. Our house is rarely above 73 degrees. Since most of you have seen vanda flowers, I'm not going to describe them in any detail. I'll just say they are beautiful. In my experience with them, the older the plant, the more flowers it will have. I've been lucky enough, upon occasion, to have them throw more than one spike at a time.

The leaves are 3-10 in. long by about 1 in. wide. Horizontal leaves grow in two rows along the stem. They are numerous, closely arranged, strap shaped, rigid, & leathery. The lower leaves drop after several years, but 'many years' would probably be more accurate. As I remember I had mine for 5+ years before they started doing this. The inflorescence (flower spike) can be from 6 to 24 in. or more depending on the age & health of the plant. It is erect or gracefully arching. The flowers are nicely spaced along the inflorescence. The plants can become quite tall if they like your growing area.

Now from the big to the small. I'm a nut for small orchids—either mounted or in pots. I think they usually do better mounted—at least for me. Ascocentrum pumilum is a little gal (ok, she's a gal because she's



Ascocenda Princess Mikasa Pink
Photo by Gary Lensmeyer



A bunch of them waiting for you.
Photo by Gary

pink!!).

Pumilum were found in Taiwan on tree trunks in broad-leaved forests at elevations of 3300-6550 ft. It is referred to by a lot people as a mini-miniature sized, cool growing monopodial epiphyte [a plant growing attached to another plant that is not parasitic; a plant growing in air or having the appearance of doing so.].

There are 5-10 flowers per inflorescence. The rose-pink or pinkish red sepals and petals are often somewhat lighter at the base of the segments. Flowers are about 0.6 in.



In Flower & so pretty.
Photo by Gary Lensmeyer

tipped sepals and petals are 0.3 in. long by about 0.1 in. wide. The 3-lobed lip is about 0.2 in. long by 0.2 in. wide with small, erect, triangular to egg-shaped sidelobes. The midlobe is about 0.2 in. long, sharply pointed at the apex, and longitudinally channeled along the midvein. At the base of the lip, a cylindrical spur about 0.2 in. long projects points down and back behind the lip. The short column is about 0.1 in. long.

The leaves are 1.2-3.1 in. long. Several leathery, distichous [in two vertical rows within a single plane], needlelike, linear leaves are carried near the top of each stem. They are somewhat recurved, about 0.1 in. wide, and rather bluntly pointed at the apex. They are grooved along the upper surface resulting in a rather kidney-shaped

cross section. Short stems are completely covered by distichous, overlapping leaf-bases, and even the



A better look at the foliage
Photo by Gary Lensmeyer

woody, lower part of the stem is hidden by the old, dried, persistent bases of leaves that have fallen. Numerous long, fleshy roots are produced at the base of the stem. I think it is a fantastic little plant!

the stem is hidden by the old, dried, persistent bases of leaves that have fallen. Numerous long, fleshy roots are produced at the base of the stem. I think it is a fantastic little plant!

I am growing mine on a small mount as you can see in the pics. I have all of my mounted orchids on obelisks. Obelisks come in all sizes that will hold a couple to many. Some are even fun—like a foot tall Eifel Tower. They do need to be ‘showered’ every other day or so. If you just have a few small mounted orchids, you can stick them in a coffee mug for a few minutes to make sure they are totally saturated. Make sure the water is not too hot & never, ever use softened water to water any of your plants.

The 3rd & last orchid is a funky terrestrial species that seems to be trying to take over the world. It’s called



Oeceoclades maculate
Photo by Gary Lensmeyer

back with both sides heavily mottled with deep green. Flower stems appear in late summer and early fall. The flowers are semi-sequential about 3/4 of an inch. Flowers have green (I'd say very light green) sepals with a contrasting white lip striped and blushed with rose-pink. At the back of the lip is a small, scrotiform spur. Flowers are rain or ant pollinated and form seed capsules quickly. They flower September through December, & peak in October. They like to grow in moist to semi-dry deciduous forests & hammocks from central Florida Southward.

All kidding aside, jewel orchids are fun to grow. I've always grown mine in basically 1/2 cactus mix, 1/4 perlite, & 1/4 good humus mix. The flowers aren't always spectacular, but most are very pretty if you take the time to look. The foliage is always more than interesting & in the winter it gives a lift to your spirits. Much better than the African Violet leaf if you ask me. Jewel orchids are easy to grow in a window as long as you don't give them too much sun. Try one, you just might like it. I know I do.

Oeceoclades maculate & is considered a jewel orchid by some. However, it's not one of the diamonds (because it's naughty). It also goes by the names of Cows Tongue Orchid, Monk Orchid, African Spotted Orchid & Spotted *Oeceoclades*. If you live in Florida, I would guess it's also called 'that *^*&^ (*&)*' that's growing in my yard. From what I could find it's terribly invasive if you live in USDA 8b or farther South. And by South, I mean all the way to Argentine in the Americas & the islands on the way. It has now been found half-way up the State of Florida & is fast heading North.

By Cleo K & Gary L

It's original habitat was Africa from Kenya in the North to Tanzania & Uganda. Now it's fast heading to Cape Town! In Kenya, the plants are found in leaf-mold in shady forests and rocky scrub near the sea from near sea level to about 1000 ft. Some have found it growing at 3950 ft. In Puerto Rico it grows in deep humus & dense shade of mature & disturbed dry to wet forests. 'Disturbed' land seems to be the preferred 'meal' for this pretty thing. It's described as having 'remarkable ecological amplitude'. [Does this sound like a dandelion to only me?]



Oeceoclades maculate
Photo by Gary Lensmeyer

To keep it brief, the plants consist of clusters of relatively small, deep green pseudobulbs giving rise to 1-2 leaves, deep green on front and lighter green on

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME AN AOS JUDGE?

Becoming a judge for orchid shows takes a considerable amount of time, dedication and commitment. Madison is serviced by the Chicago Judging Region. It is located at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. The group of certified judges gets together on a monthly basis for instruction and possible judging of outstanding orchids brought when there is not a show to exhibit them at. This is also when people desiring to become judges receive intense and complete training. Initiation involves being knowledgeable about all genera of orchids. Many of them have published articles in an orchid club newsletter or in an orchid journal. The expense of driving to and from Chicago as well as any stay at a hotel is gratis. The expense of driving to a registered orchid show and staying at a hotel is 100% gratis.

Becoming certified takes a minimum of 6 years. **It is a gift of love. OGG wants to take time to thank the 23 judges that will be coming at Orchid Quest this year.**

One of our speakers for Orchid Quest will be Dr. Nile Dusdieker. He will speak Saturday afternoon February 2nd, Saturday at 2:30 PM. His talk will be about the 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore 2011. He is a member of the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society and he is training to become an accredited AOS judge. We thank Nile for this "His Judging Story". Judy Stevenson

Take 'em To Be J U D G E D!

By Nile Dusdieker

After growing orchids for over 20 years and attending numerous orchid shows, I decided to do some serious studying of 'quality' orchid flowers and plants. I was accepted as an 'old' student judge in the Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society July of 2008. Three years of student training involved traveling to orchid shows, monthly judging sessions in Chicago, and presenting two educational papers a year. Most importantly, the student learns to critically evaluate orchids in terms of their genetic heritage, hybridization, and overall flower quality.

The AOS award system attempts to standardize the evaluation of orchid species and hybrids using a 100 point evaluation system. An extensive database from the AOS called [AQ Plus](#) and the online counterpart [Orchids Plus](#) provides historical comparisons with prior awards and information about the parents and genetic lineage. Flower quality awards are based on flower **form, color and presentation**; with 75-79 points receiving a **HCC** (Highly Commended Certificate); 80 - 89 points an **AM** (Award of Merit); and above 90 points the highly coveted **FCC** (First Class Certificate). Addition awards may be given for cultural achievement (**CCM** Certificate of Cultural Merit and **CCE** Certificate of Cultural Excellence). Other awards acknowledge unique characteristics of plants and their biologic significance.

What happens at the show? Ribbon judging starts early in the morning comparing show plants registered by class as determined by the Mid America Orchid Congress Schedule. Ribbons are given to the top three flowers in



Coelogyne trinervis at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Deana Sanders 'Hubert' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis

each class. Ribbon judging compares *only plants in the show*. Not all ribbons may be awarded for each class as the quality of the blooms may be variable depending on the climate, season, and growers exhibiting at the show. AOS Judging commences in a separate room after ribbon judging. The selected plant and flower are compared with all known prior AOS awards to the same and similar lineage plants. Plants with potential for an AOS award are 'pulled' by the judges after ribbon judging is over. Every plant registered for ribbon judging is seen by one or more AOS judges and potential candidates to be 'pulled' are noted. Any other AOS judge can also pull a plant as well. Therefore, *all plants in the show are considered AOS judged and cannot be submitted for future judging on the same bloom*. This can create a problem when plants go to more than one show with the same bloom. They should be marked 'not for AOS judging' at the subsequent show but are still eligible for ribbon judging. The conundrum arises when the exhibitor has a plant that has a potential for an AOS award but may not be fully open. Two choices exist: hold the plant back for the next show or mark the tag 'not for AOS judging' and keep the tag as proof for the next show.

What is the point? I think receiving an AOS award for one's own plant is really special! It rewards the grower for those many hours of growing, watering, repot-

ting, and debugging! The award is truly a national award and will be recognized around the world. Now, **HERE COMES A 'SECRET!'** In order to receive an award for one of your plants; two things must happen:

You must grow and bloom the plant to the best of your ability and hope the plant genetics provide you with a worthy flower.

You need to present the flower in full bloom to be judged. This is often the problem as there may not be an orchid show at the right time. Orchid judging is held at the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois at 1PM on the second Saturday of the month. If you know a judge from your area, likely he/she will take the plant in for judging.

An alternative: become a judge yourself! I am now an accredited probationary judge (next 3 years) so my 'vote counts!' I have enjoyed meeting many who 'love' orchids and have learned much from my mentors. Most of all - *the entire process has be a lot of fun!*

Nile Dusdieker, Eastern Iowa Orchid Society, North Liberty, Iowa niledusdieker@gmail.com



Beallara Tahoma Glacier 'Green' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis

OGG Ribbon Judging January 2013

First Place

Wayne King	Brassocattleya Maikai (<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> x <i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i>)
Nancy Thomas	Dendrobium Andréé Millar (Dendrobium atrovioleaceum x Dendrobium convolutum)
Nancy Thomas	Phragmipedium Rosalie Dixler (Phrag. besseae x Phrag. lindleyanum var. kaieteurum)
Bob Lasseter	Epc. Kyoguchi 'M. Sauno' x 'L Gold Star'
Bob Lasseter	Paph Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' x 'In-Charm White'
Bob Lasseter	Burrageara Nelly Isler 'Swiss Miss' (<i>Oncidopsis Stefan Isler</i> x <i>Miltoniopsis Kensington</i>)
unknown	Pot. Golden Circle (Blc. Goldenzelle x Sc. Circle of Life)

Second Place

Bob Lasseter	Brassocattleya Binosa 'Wabash Valley' (<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> x <i>Cattleya bicolor</i>)
--------------	--

ERRATA

NOVEMBER RIBBON JUDGING

Laeliocattleya Bob Pusavat (Lc. Puppy Love x C. Peggy Huffman)	Missed
Melissa Williams Colm. Wildcat 'Ocelot'	Missed
Richard Miller Pot. Newberry sundisk	No name
Terri Jozwiak Stenocoryne aurea-fulva	No name

DECEMBER RIBBON JUDGING

Audrey Lucier Cattleya Chocolate Drop 'Volcano Queen'	Missed
--	--------



Paphiopedilum Festive Hunter 'Kensington' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis



Callianthe Porcia 'Cannizaro' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis



Vanda Robert's Delight 'Somsri' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis



Paphiopedilum Festive Hunter 'Kensington' at Smithsonian Institute.
Photo by Denise Baylis

UP-COMING EVENTS

February 2 - 3, 2013

Orchid Growers' Guild Show, "Orchid Quest 2013"

Feb 8 – 10, 2013

Kansas City Orchid Show, Kansas City, MO, bethdoug@kc.rr.com

February 16 - 17, 2013

Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL, mrollinger@mindspring.com

February 21-24, 2013

"East Meets West," Pacific Orchid Exposition, San Francisco, CA, info@orchidsanfrancisco.org

March 2 - 3, 2013

Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 East Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI, orrwitt@aol.com

March 16 - 17, 2013

38th Annual Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Wallaces Garden Center & Greenhouse, 2605 Devils Glen Road, Bettendorf, IA, cheken@nbson.net

April 6 - 7, 2013

Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake Cook Road, Glen-coe, IL, goldrose@att.net