

May 2016

# The Orchid Grower

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



## AUCTION

### NEXT MEETING MAY 15TH, OLBRICH GARDENS

#### Member Auction

The May meeting is our Annual Members Auction. Bring your divisions, supplies, pots, or other orchid related items to auction off. At the April meeting the membership voted to make auction sales a 100% donation to the Guild. The people donating plants/items will receive a tax exempt receipt for the selling value of their plants/items. This will be an important fund raiser for the Guild. Thank you Guild members, bidders and donors!

As a separate attachment to this newsletter is a page to print out for donors. Fill it out and use it with your plant/items when you come to the meeting. It will be helpful to also print out a photo of your plant. Bidders appreciate any information you can share about your plant/items.

Please bring clean bug free plants to the auction. By bringing in nice plants, which should get higher bids, you will be greatly helping the Guild.

#### Election of Officers

May is also time for OGG Board elections. Currently open are President (2 year term), Treasurer (2 year term) and general board position (3 year term.) If you just want to learn more about the workings of the Guild, why not run for the general board position? Do you have 2-2 1/2 hours to help keep OGG going? If so, please let Sue Reed know you are interested. The Board meets monthly in the evening. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting.

#### Meeting Dates

- May 15, Meeting Room
- June Picnic TBA
- September 25, Meeting Room
- October 16, Meeting Room
- November 20, Meeting Room
- December 18, Meeting Room

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

#### Officers and Committees

##### President:

Lorraine Snyder (2016)  
[lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com)

##### Vice President:

Sue Reed (2017)  
[greed@chorus.net](mailto:greed@chorus.net)

##### Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2017)  
[nelsonridge@tds.net](mailto:nelsonridge@tds.net)

##### Treasurer:

David Kohlwey (2016)  
[riceguy1@juno.com](mailto:riceguy1@juno.com)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

April OGG Ribbon Judging	6
Next Meeting	1
Orchid Quest Up-date	2
President's Message	1
Re-Cap: Prof. Cameron Talk	5
Re-Cap: Paradigm Gdns Meeting	3
Up-Coming Events	6

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Special thanks to Prof. Ken Cameron for his talk "Around the World With Orchids" He teaches us that our world is truly populated with an amazing variety of orchids.

I appreciate all members who purchased the plants donated by Betty Williamson in memory of her husband

**Board:**

Liz Wood (2017)  
[ewood@biochem.wisc.edu](mailto:ewood@biochem.wisc.edu)

Nancy Thomas (2016)  
[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

Carrie Weisman (2018)  
[carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov)

**Away Shows:**

Nancy Thomas  
[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

**Hospitality:**

Volunteer

**Librarian:**

Liz Wood  
[ewood@biochem.wisc.edu](mailto:ewood@biochem.wisc.edu)

**Membership:**

Carrie Weisman  
[carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov)

**Newsletter:**

Denise Baylis  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net)

**Orchid Quest 2015:**

Terri Jozwiak  
[lodijoz@charter.net](mailto:lodijoz@charter.net)

**Programs:**

Lorraine Snyder  
[Lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com](mailto:Lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com)

**Ribbon Judging:**

Open

**Web Master:**

Richard Jozwiak  
[OGGweb@charter.net](mailto:OGGweb@charter.net)

**Liaisons:**

**AOS:** Nancy Thomas  
**MAOC:** Keith Nelson  
**Orchid Digest:** Open

*(Continued from page 1)*

Ron Williamson, an avid gardener and orchid collector.

This is the time for everyone and especially new members to volunteer to help with hospitality, the speakers for future meetings, to help with ideas on how to make the Guild work, and especially on how to work in our new show venue at Olbrich. We have so many new people and long-time members with fresh ideas, experience and thoughts on making the Guild their exciting organization!

We look forward to the May meeting and member auction. Dust off those unused supplies and bring those divisions to the auction to give them a new home and income to OGG. We have a donation of a variety of orchids donated by Orchids Garden Center thanks to Kent Franz. Many of these are species. Bring your cash and checkbook!

We will also have elections for President, Treasurer and a general board member. If you are interested in either of these offices, please contact Sue Reed, nominating committee chairperson.

See you at Olbrich!

Lorraine Snyder

## UP-DATE ON ORCHID QUEST 2017

We have a new home for Orchid Quest! The board voted to accept Olbrich Botanical Gardens as our new site. I think that we could make this our permanent home. Next year Orchid Quest (OQ) will be February 4-5, 2017. We will have to down-size a bit, make some important changes and a lot of hands are needed to get the ideas flowing to use our new space creatively. Our first OQ meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24 at 7 p.m. at Jason's Deli, 7349 Mineral Point Road, Madison. It is by Shopko at West Towne Mall. We will be discussing what things we will have to cut, change or modify. This is an all new Orchid Quest for us. We need plenty of ideas to make it great. We need YOU. Please join us.

Terri Jozwiak



Photographs by Sue Reed



Photograph by Terri Jozwiak

## **Re-Cap: 20 March 2016 Meeting at Paradigm Gardens, Madison, WI**

**By Susan Reed**

Dennis Andersen from Paradigm Gardens gave a very interesting and informative off-the-cuff talk about his experiences using Paradigm's products and general products for growing orchids.

Dennis began by discussing various media for growing orchids. Orchidata™ is his favorite. Adding Growstone to orchid bark or as a top dressing, as suggested by Wayne King, helps hold in moisture which is slowly released to the media. 'Growstone' is made from 100% recycled glass so it is a 'green', inert product that performs the similar function as pumice or perlite in the orchid media.

Dennis also spent time discussing water. Tap water is fine whether from a home well or city water. Dennis has noticed an improvement in his orchids (phals and oncidiums) by using Reverse Osmosis water. [Commonly referred to as RO, is a process where water is demineralized or deionized by pushing it under pressure through a semi-permeable Reverse Osmosis Membrane.] One issue with RO water is its lack of minerals. Necessary minerals can be added back with various fertilizers and nutrients. One way to add back some of the minerals is to mix the RO (or distilled water) 50-50 with tap water.

RO systems can be for the whole house or small units such as the ones that Paradigm carries. The small units can connect to your laundry tub sink with a hose connection. A down side of the RO system is the amount of water necessary to make the RO water: 1 gallon of RO water requires 3-4 gallons of water. The filters on RO systems need to be replaced and the frequency depends upon the quality of the water going through the filters. Softened water saves the filters.

Rain water is good if the water is fresh and not contaminated [by chemicals in roofing material for example]. Storage of rain and dehumidifier water can develop issues with bacteria and fungus. Aerating the water helps kill bacteria, keeps the water fresher and puts some oxygen into the water. Dennis



Dennis showed us an orchid that is grown entirely hydroponically, with dry cycles between emersions

uses Rapid Start (a root accelerator) at every watering with a marked improvement in the growth of his orchids.

A unique watering system that works for orchids is a flow-through system (Ebb and Flow) that waters the plants on a cycle and depth that is adjustable for the particular type of orchid. Paradigm has a variety of sizes and systems that vary from a single pot to the ability to water many pots.

The lighting discussion was of great interest to many. The difference between the T-12 bulbs (diameter about the size of a 50 cent

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

piece), T- 8 bulbs (size of a quarter) and the T-5 (size of a dime) is in the amount of lumens per the amount of electricity used. The lumens have increased with more efficient use of electricity in the newer smaller bulbs. Thus the smaller bulbs are actually providing more useful light to your plants at a lower cost. There are new bulbs that also contain the UVA and UVB. These bulbs are more like natural sunlight making 'hardening off' less of an issue when the plants go outside for the summer.

All bulbs lose brightness over time and need to be replaced for optimum plant growth, but for practical purposes, bulb replacement can wait until bulbs burn out. The distance from the bulb is a key factor in the amount of light that the plant receives.

The new LED fixtures are expensive and the lights are fixed in the units meaning that as the bulbs burn out they cannot presently be replaced. Good quality LED bulbs need to be purchased from a well-established company,

because the product of some companies have not been reliable and the company has gone out of business. The LEDs are very fine-tuned to the spectrum so that plants have to be close to the lights without shading from other plants to get maximum benefit. LED bulbs do last many years without light quality degradation.

How much and what fertilizer to use was also discussed. Less is more was Dennis's suggestion. Too much fertilizer can damage the plant's roots. Start with low amounts of fertilizer, then do slight increases to see if that improves plant growth. He also suggested checking the pH of the fertilizer solution because the orchid uptake of the minerals is pH dependent. Organic nutrients take longer to break down than the inorganic fertilizers. Dennis recommended Kelp because it contains micro nutrients that are important to the orchid's growth. Fish emulsion and sea weed fertilizers are also good organic fertilizers. Fish emulsion does have a fishy odor. Dennis grows his orchids in an ebb and flow system so he uses GH Rapid start in his water and that is his only fertilizer.



Photographs by Sue Reed



From left: *Dtps* Beauty Sheena 'Rin Rin' grown by Lorraine Snyder; *Den.* Stephen Batchelor and *Den.* *Bracteosum*, both grown by Terri Jozwiak

## **RECAP OF PRESENTATION AT APRIL 17th MEETING**

### **Prof. Cameron on “Around the World in 80 Orchids”**

Our local orchidologist, Dr. Ken Cameron, Professor of Botany at UW-Madison and Director of the Wisconsin State Herbarium presented a lecture entitled “Around the World in 80 Orchids” at the Orchid Guild meeting on April 17. Dr. Cameron informed us that he earned his PhD in 1996 making this year a special 20th anniversary. Reflecting on two decades of orchid research and botanical exploration he asked himself the question “how many countries have I collected or studies orchids within at this point in my career?” There are apps available for smartphones (e.g., ‘been’) that allow a person to calculate how much of the world they have traveled. Ken has been fortunate to travel around the globe, and so he was inspired to develop a lecture using the title of Jules Verne’s classic novel “Around the World in 80 Days”.

Ken’s journey was not presented in chronological order, but rather it started in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere of the New World (Canada), moved to the Old World and proceeded in a spiral manner around the globe profiling the orchids of countries in the north temperate zone to the subtropics to the equatorial tropics, and ending in south temperate zone (New Zealand). In the end he profiled 20 different countries from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and even Antarctica! (new unpublished research out of the Botany Department show that the ancestor of orchids evolved when South America and Australia were still connected to each other via Antarctica before it became covered in ice).

Some countries were represented by only one or two native orchid species in Ken’s presentation, whereas the orchid flora of more diverse countries (e.g., Ecuador and Colombia) were profiled by a dozen or more.



Photograph by Terri Jozwiak

Professor Ken Cameron

Dr. Cameron also commented on the total orchid diversity present in each country to emphasize the point that orchids are found almost everywhere (Wisconsin has about 50 native orchid species, California only about 32! The reason that Wisconsin has so many is because of the crossroads of the boreal forest, the deciduous forest and the prairie that occurs within the state. Canada has about 65 orchid species). Orchids are much more diverse in montane countries that straddle the equator (more than 4,000 native orchids species are known from Ecuador).

The presentation was a fascinating variation on the typical orchid travel talk in that it covered the entire planet (appropriate for a meeting right before Earth Day!) over a 20 year period – some of the photos of Ken as a young graduate student were fun to see.

Furthermore, Dr. Cameron shared a number of interesting facts related to the natural history, pollination, and cultivation of both familiar and exotic orchid species.

Dr. Cameron also gave us an update on what his former students are doing and that his students will be writing more articles for the American Orchid Society Magazine.



Left: Pot. Hausermann's Flame 'Warm Heart' grown by Rachel Miller

SPRING ORCHID SALE			
Sales		Expenses	
Orchids	1193.00	Square fees	21.04
Bark	50.00	Copies care sheets	3.00
Pots	27.00	Orchids Garden Centre	622.98
Total sales	1270.00	subtotal	647.02
expenses	(709.32)	10% Olbrich	62.30
Net sales	560.68	Total expenses	709.32
Memberships	96.00		
<b>Sales + memberships</b>	<b>656.68</b>		

Photograph by Terri Jozwiak

### UP-COMING EVENTS

- **August 1 - 4, 2016** - Native Orchid Conference, Benson, Arizona
- **November 8-12, 2017** -- 22nd World Orchid Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador

A Heart-felt thanks to Sue Reed for all her help on this edition of the newsletter.  
Denise Baylis, Editor

## APRIL OGG RIBBON JUDGING

### First Place

Susan Reed	<i>Diplocaulobium nitidissimum</i>
Susan Reed	<i>Phal. schilleriana var purpurea</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Phrag. Don Wimber</i> (Eric Young x <i>besseae</i> )
Nancy Thomas	<i>Den. Green Flash 'Nancy's Fancy'</i> AM/AOS (Andre Millar x <i>convolutum</i> )
Rachel Miller	Pot. Hausermann's Flame 'Warm Heart' ( <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Brian Carter x C Christopher Hausermann)

### Second Place

Lorraine Synder	<i>Dtps Beauty Sheena 'Rin Rin'</i> (Moyo Beauty x Moyo Baby)
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Iwanagara Apple Blossom 'NN'</i> (Dialaelia Snowflake x Blc. Orange Nugget)
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Den. Stephen Batchelor</i> ( <i>alexandrae</i> x <i>johnsoniae</i> )
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Den. bracteosum</i>

### Third Place

Terri Jozwiak	<i>Bulb. makoyanum</i>
Judy Williamson	Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark water' ( <i>Guarianthe aurantiaca</i> x <i>Cattleya Anzac</i> (1921))

## May 2016 Member's Auction

---

Item/Plant species or type

---

Color

---

Recommended opening bid

---

Donor name

---

Winning bidder name

## May 2016 Member's Auction

---

Item/Plant species or type

---

Color

---

Recommended opening bid

---

Donor name

---

Winning bidder name

## May 2016 Member's Auction

---

Item/Plant species or type

---

Color

---

Recommended opening bid

---

Donor name

---

Winning bidder name

## May 2016 Member's Auction

---

Item/Plant species or type

---

Color

---

Recommended opening bid

---

Donor name

---

Winning bidder name