

January  
2020

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Quest 2020



Olbrich Botanical  
Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org

## NEXT MEETING, JANUARY 19th

Jeff B. will do a short presentation on his Mister Mister [automated misting system] . The main topic of discussion will be Orchid Quest. Paper sign-up sheets for Friday, Saturday and Sunday workdays, sponsorships and food will be available. Our hospitality hosts for this meeting are Gary L and Barb S. Thank you for volunteering!

### Meeting Dates

- January 19
- February 16
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June TBA
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

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

### Up-Coming Events

- **January 25 - 26** - Orchid Society of Minnesota Show, St. Paul MN
- **February 1-2** - Orchid Quest
- **February 15-16** - Batavia Orchid Society Show, Wheaton, IL
- **March 7-8** - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Appleton, WI
- **March 14-15** - Illinois Orchid Society Show, Glencoe, IL
- **March 28-29** - Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Milaeger's Greenhouse, Racine, WI

### Officers and Committees

#### President:

Susan Reed (2020)  
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#### Vice President:

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#### Secretary:

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#### Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2020)  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone!

We had a great turn out for the Holiday Party! Thank you all that were able to attend and thank you for the great food! Everyone got to go home with a "Holiday" plate or more than one thanks to Denise and her great finds!

Garry L gave us another informative update on the care of our Catasetums plus answered questions concerning grower's problems and concerns.

The winner of the Milo Gilbertson award, the best new grower award was announced, the OGG display organizer ( Exhibit organizer) was announced. The awards this year were again a certificate plus a voucher to be used at Orchid Quest at any vendor!

The winners from the drawing for the photo submissions went to Carla B. & Judy W. Thank you for submitting images for our enjoyment.

2020 is the Guild's 35th anniversary. The board would appreciate it if members volunteered to organize an anniversary event. This event is planned to be held on a Sunday in June. Are there suggestions on the first, second or forth Sunday of June? We need to reserve the room, so we must decide in January which Sunday to reserve at Olbrich. We will be doing this celebration instead of our usual members' house picnic.

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**Board:**

Barbara Soderling (2020)  
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**Hospitality:**

Volunteer

**Librarian:**

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**Ribbon Judging:**

Open

**Web Master:**

Richard Jozwiak  
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**Liaisons:**

**AOS:** Nancy Thomas  
**MAOC:** Keith Nelson

We will also sponsor our usual orchid plant sale in April. Again a date has not been set. Olbrich is not holding a pansy sale, so we will have to work around wedding reservations/rental paying events.

Our largest fund raiser is Orchid Quest, so our focus in January will be Orchid Quest a fun filled weekend for all of us January 31, and February 1-2!

I hope to see everyone at the January meeting where Orchid Quest details will be discussed and Jeff B will be doing an informational Orchid growing presentation on his misting system.

Happy new Year!

--- Sue Reed

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## ORCHID QUEST 2020 UP-DATE

Orchid Quest 2020 will be Saturday and Sunday, February 1-2 with set-up on Friday, January 31 at Olbrich.

We were assured that the new classroom area would be finished and available to us. Terri has designed that area to hold the exhibits. There will be a nice flow pattern for people to come in one door, walk a circuit around the room and then exit a different door. Since the exhibits will be in the classrooms, the atrium will be open for the speakers. This way we can accommodate more people to hear the speakers and their presentations can begin earlier

We are again offering award sponsorships for only \$25 (only those paid before OQ can be recognized). The list of award categories will be available at the January meeting or if you want a special one held for you, email Denise Baylis.

- There will be beautiful purple tablecloths on any OGG table, so OGG will be highly visible and recognizable, thanks Carrie!
- We have 10 different paid vendors already signed up for the vendor room, thanks Lorraine!
- Volunteers will be handled by Denise. You can sign up on Sign-up-Genius, or if you prefer, email Denise directly. The sign-up list will also be at the next OGG meeting.
- Again there will be snacks available to volunteers and vendors on all three days. A signup will be at the next meeting or contact Keith Nelson.
- Parking on Saturday and Sunday will again be at the outlying parking lot with a dedicated driver to bring you to Olbrich
- The posters and bookmarks are printed. They will be available at the next two OQ meetings and at the next OGG meeting. **The two OQ planning meetings will be Tuesdays, January 7 and January 21 at 6:30 pm at Noodles at 7050 University Avenue.**

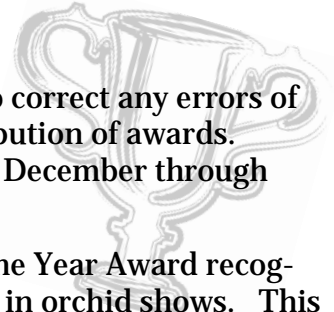
### REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!

2020 dues are due.

Dues are \$10 for students, \$20 for single memberships and \$25 for duos.

Cash is accepted but checks are preferred.

# OGG Awards and Recognition



It is the policy of the Guild to promote and reward participation in Guild activities and excellence in orchid growing and to do so by providing special recognition as these activities relate to the growing and showing of orchid plants in flower and related artistic endeavors.

Growing points are awarded for plants displayed in OGG exhibits and during ribbon judging at OGG meetings. Exhibit points are awarded for participation in the setup or take down of an OGG exhibit as well as sending orchids.

The Guild newsletter publishes a record of plant and exhibit awards as soon as practicable. The purpose of such publication is to

enable Guild members to correct any errors of record prior to the distribution of awards. Award points are earned December through November of each year.

The Guild Exhibitor of the Year Award recognizes Guild participation in orchid shows. This includes set-up/take-down as well as sending plants. Sue Reed received this award for 2019.

The Milo Gilbertson award was established in 1991 to honor Milo. Milo was a Charter member off the Guild as well as the foremost amateur orchid grower in Dane County and won numerous awards at various orchid shows in the area. Keith Nelson was the winner this year.

The winner of the best Beginning grower was Bryce De Venecia.

## MILO GILBERTSON AWARD WINNERS

1992	Wayne King (50 pts)
1993	Susan West
1994	Dennis Pfarrer
1995	No Award
1996	No Award
1997	Sue Reed
1998	Sue Reed
1999	Dennis Pfarrer (155 pts)
2000	Dennis Pfarrer
2001	Sue Reed (212 pts)
2002	Wayne King (351 pts)
2003	Sue Reed
2004	Wayne King
2005	Sandy Delamater
2006	Sandy Delamater
2007	Sandy Delamater
2008	Sandy Delamater
2009	Sandy Delamater
2010	Sandy Delamater
2011	Sandy Delamater
2012	Sandy Delamater
2013	Sue Reed
2014	Terri Jozwiak
2015	Terri Jozwiak
2016	Nancy Thomas
2017	Terri Jozwiak
2018	Nancy Thomas
2019	Keith Nelson

	Growing	Exhibiting
Bob Lasseter	4	
Brent McCoy		6
Bruce Luebke	15	139
<b>Bryce De Venecia</b>	<b>8</b>	
Dave Watson	3	
Denise Baylis		12
Doug Dowling	30	
Erin Thornburgh	4	28
Gary Lensmeyer	65	
Irene Mackie		91
Jeff Baylis	142	6
Judy Stevenson	7	
Kathy Johnson	4	6
<b>Keith Nelson</b>	<b>228</b>	48
Lisa Linde		6
Lorraine Snyder	64	
Lynn West	66	
Meg McLaughlin	187	
Mo Fayyaz		91
Nancy Thomas	161	50
Olbrich Botanical Gardens	288	
Richard Miller	4	
Sandy Delamater	9	
Shirl Roberts	12	
Steve Thimling	16	
<b>Sue Reed</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>157</b>
Terri Jozwiak	84	22
Wayne King	3	

# Catasetum Update, January 2020

By Gary Lensmeyer

At the December meeting, the discussion focused on the process used to carry catasetum orchids into dormancy. A recent newsletter article from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids nicely sums-up the major points of the dormancy issue.

The following article is in Fred's own words:

"Now that winter has clearly arrived, your Catasetums should have matured growths and be mostly done flowering, Cycnoches will be finishing their blooming, Mormodes should be flowering now, and Clowesia should be starting soon.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and the end of the rainy season resulting in the lack of root zone moisture.

Those of you in Florida and southern states may already have dormant plants. Those in more temperate areas like here in California should be seeing the starts of dormancy with the lower leaves starting to turn light brown and drop off.

The first indications of leaf yellowing and leaf drop signal the beginning of dormancy. This is when you should stop fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency. You want to simulate the end of the wet season, as it happens in nature, by gradually increasing the dry interval in-between watering. I am watering every two weeks at the time of the writing of this news letter. This change in culture will cause the pseudobulbs to harden of, in preparation for dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have dropped off, cease watering altogether this should be around the first of the new year and marks the start of dormancy.



Gary Lensmeyer with Catasetums in different stages of dormancy

Generally, this process occurs naturally; however, when the plants are cultivated in warm growing areas such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged. I have found that in addition to the steps outlined above stopping watering in late December or early January, regardless of the number of green leaves, will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the necessary transition. If you see a little shriveling of the bulb usually one watering is enough to plump them back up.

By late December, it's important to get your Catasetinae into the dormant stage; to provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will 'wake up' early in the spring to a long growing season.

As my Catasetinae go to "sleep" for the winter I am reminded of an old proverb (with apologies to Ben Franklin) "Early to bed and early to rise, makes you healthy, happy and floriferous." "



## DECEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

### First Place

Susan Reed  
Gary Lensmeyer  
Lorraine Snyder  
Lorraine Snyder

*Dendrochilum curranii*  
Blc hybrid  
*Paph fairrieanum* 'Red Glen #10' x *Paph Magic Leopard* #1  
Fredclarkeara After Dark

### Second Place

Lynn West  
Lynn West  
Lorraine Snyder

*Epidendrum nocturnum* [grown from seed]  
*Dendrobium phalaenopsis* hybrid  
*Phrag* 'Rosalie Dixler'

### Third Place

Lorraine Snyder  
Lorraine Snyder  
Lorraine Snyder

*Paphiopedilum* complex bulldog  
*Paphiopedilum* Fair Nettie  
*Paphiopedilum* Pinocchio 'Cupping' x *Paph primulium* alba 'Green Tea'



## MEMBER PHOTO SHOW

Member photos of their orchids were viewed at the Holiday Party as a backdrop slide show. It was wonderful to see the plants that our members were growing. We have a talented group.

All submitted photos were made into a movie with each photo getting ten seconds. The movie was about 8 minutes long, so we had about 48 submissions. We decided that there was no limit on the number of photos that could be submitted per person. Eleven people made submissions, a couple came in too late to be included. Names were put into a container and Jeff Baylis pulled the names of two lucky peo-

ple, Carla Bartz and Judy Williamson, who each won \$20.00 gift certificates to be used at Orchid Quest 2020.

We do plan on doing this again. So please start taking your photos now. All photos can be sent anytime to [cynthia727672@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia727672@gmail.com). All photos must include OGG Photo in the title of the e-mail to be easily located at the end of the year. Photos can be of your own plants or something you have seen in the wild. We want to get to know you and what grow.

--- Cynthia Wadsworth

### Some members photos . . .



*Oncidium cheiroporum* from Cynthia Wadsworth



*Miltoniopsis* from Connie Muscavitch



*C. Cernua* by Carla Bartz



*Galeandra leptocerus* from Gary Lensmeyer



... More member Photos



Judy Williamson



Lynn West's *Cypripedium reginae*



*Dactylorhiza incarnate* var *pullchella*.  
From Susan Reed, also known as Early Marsh Orchid found in Ireland and England. She digs it up in the winter & bags it in a freezer bag in the refrigerator crisper

Some members' photographs came in with stories:

<p>These photographs came from Sandy Delamater. From left to right: <i>Paph. niveum</i>, flower is white w/slight blushing; <i>Stanhopea wardii</i>, this plant is ten years old, blooms every year late summer-early fall, always has two spikes with five to six large flowers per spike; and <i>Vanda Pachara Delight 'Pachara'</i>, this plant is eight years old, blooms every year at least once a year sometimes twice a year, has ten flowers per spike each flower is 4 1/2-5 in. in diameter with beautiful purple color.</p>		

<p>Bryce De Venetia took these photos during his travels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i></li> <li>2. <i>Calypso bulbosa</i> v. <i>americana</i>, both in Rocky Mountain National Park ("on my birthday too!")</li> </ol>		
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**NOTE**  
The next OGG Board Meeting will be January 7, combined with an Orchid Quest meeting. There will be an Orchid Quest meeting again on January 21. Both meetings will be at Noodles on University Ave. at 6:30 PM.  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**



# My long and minimally successful dabble into orchid seed germination

I have always been fascinated by seed germination and I've been known by my friends as a compulsive seed collector. When I started growing orchids it was only a matter of time before I tried to grow orchids from seed. Growing orchids from seeds is somewhat like having a gambling addiction. Most the time you fail but then there's that one jar with a successful germination and you can't stop yourself from trying again. What's the right combination of disinfectant, medium pH, how much agar to use, which medium will work with this species, should banana powder or pineapple juice be added? I had just enough success to keep trying, and trying, and trying.

So, if you need even more of a challenge than cultivating and flowering orchids, consider germinating orchid seeds. However, if you like to see quick results, this may not be the DIY project for you as it can take five to seven years before seeing your first flower when growing under standard home conditions. But, I would never discourage anyone from giving it a go as it's highly rewarding to be able to show off a flowering orchid that you grew from seed. And if you make your own crosses, you could have the opportunity to name the hybrid.

When you begin your orchid growing quest, the optimal source of orchid seed is from pollinating your own orchids. This is because you are assured that the seed is fresh, correctly identified, and affords the option of green pod technique or dry seed for germination. There are many orchid seed sellers on EBay, most of which appear to be scams. Since most orchid seeds are so tiny that individual seeds are

barely visible and reputable sellers would offer them by weight and not by the piece as is common practice on eBay. I purchased my first seeds from the Orchid Seed Bank Project (<http://www.orchidseed.com/>). It looks like this website hasn't been updated since 2015 so it's not clear if seed is still available. However, the site is a wealth of information on seed germination techniques.

Once you have acquired a supply of seed, you will need to purchase media and culture vessels. I purchase my supplies from Phytotechnology Laboratories (<https://phytotechlab.com/?SID=8b2dcd601b93f7e8496dd2f532c6e6b6>). Their web site has information on media formulations and a selection guide for choosing the best medium by genera. For those less comfortable with preparing medium from scratch, ready-made medium is available, along with sterilized water, disinfectants, and lab supplies. Whether using the green capsule technique or dry seeds, the capsule or seeds must undergo a sterilization procedure to prevent fungal and bacterial contamination of the growing medium. The most common sterilization process involves soaking the seeds in a diluted bleach solution. The length of time depends on the species. For example, for most epiphytic orchids 10-15 minutes of a diluted bleach solution followed by three rinses with sterile water would be sufficient. For temperate terrestrial orchids the soak may be 1-2 hours. For these orchids the bleach not only sterilizes the seed, but is an agent that is thought to neutralize the compounds that keep the seeds in a state of dormancy. Too little time in the sterilant and the medium will become contaminated, too long and the seeds can be

damaged and won't germinate. Another sterilization process is the green capsule technique. This technique is a good option for orchids whose seeds go into dormancy. The seed capsule is collected before the seeds are fully mature and go into dormancy. In order to collect the pod at the correct time, it is necessary to know when the flower was pollinated and how long the capsule has been developing. The internet can provide information on approximate times to collect



*Ten gallon aquarium turned on its side with opening minimized with a piece of glass*



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green capsules. (Please note there are other sterilization processes not exclusive of this list. These are described in the references below.)

Once you have sterilized the seeds, they are then transferred to the medium using sterile techniques. The culture vessels are sealed with parafilm and set in a warm constant temperature low light location.

With luck, the seeds will in germinate in a month or two (possibly up to six months). At this stage the seedlings are called protocorms and have the appearance of round green balls with a spike (protocorms of terrestrial species are kept in the dark and are a whitish color). The protocorms eventually develop a root and a leaf. The protocorms need to be transferred to a new vessel of medium after about 6 months or if the growth is slowing down. The new medium is usually more concentrated in nutrients and complex additives such as coconut water or banana powder may be included to encourage strong growth. These transfers must also be done under sterile techniques. Be prepared for high losses from contamination unless you have access to a biological hood. With even more luck (or skill) the protocorms will grow into seedlings which can be transferred to



This *Epidendrum nocturnum* shown at the December OGG meeting was grown from seed

community pots. Seedlings grow very slowly initially in the home environment and must be monitored frequently. It's really easy to kill them even at this stage. Finally, they reach a size where they grow rapidly and become flowering size. Since the plants are seed grown, the flowers will be unique and it's exciting to see what variations you get.

Anyone interested in growing orchids from seed will be able to learn these techniques with a little practice. Avoiding contamination is the most difficult part of the process for those practicing "kitchen style" germination. But I have read that people who are really good at it can actually work on an open table without contaminating their culture vessels. So don't be discouraged, but you will

become addicted!

---- Lynn West

#### References:

- Seaton, P. and Ramsay, M. 2005. Growing Orchids from Seed. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Hicks, A. 2004. Asymbiotic Technique of Orchid Seed Germination. The Orchid Seedbank Project, Chandler, AZ.

### Up-coming events

- **January 25 - 26, 2020** - Orchid Society of Minnesota Show, Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Dr, St Paul, MN 55103
- **February 1-2** - Orchid Quest, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704
- **February 15-16** - Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187
- **March 7-8** - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Doubletree By Hilton, 150 Nicolet Road, Appleton, WI
- **March 14-15** - Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL
- **March 28-29** - Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Milaeger's Greenhouse, 4838 Douglas Ave, Racine, WI 53402