

February  
2023

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



## NEXT MEETING, FEBRUARY 19th Fred Clark from Sunset Valley Orchids "Cynoches, Mormodes and Catasetum"

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for over 40 years and hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 36 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located just north of San Diego, California.

His talk will feature a review of the important species, historic and recent hybridizing trends, fascinating pollination strategy and fundamentals of best cultural practices to grow these plants successfully.



### Meeting Dates

- 2023, February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21
- June TBA

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

### Up-Coming Events

- 2023 February 4-5, Orchid Quest, Olbrich Botanical Gardens
- February 24-25, Batavia Orchid Society Show, Cantigny Park, Wheaton IL
- March 4-5, Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Milaegers
- March 11-12, Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe IL
- May 13, Spring Orchid Sale, Olbrich, Atrium
- 2024, March 1-4, 23rd World Orchid Congress, Tainan, Taiwan

### Officers and Committees

#### President:

Susan Reed (2024)  
[Greed@chorus.net](mailto:Greed@chorus.net)

#### Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2023)  
[cynthia727672@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia727672@gmail.com)

#### Secretary:

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#### Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2024)  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Guild members and volunteers!

With Terri's great organizational skills pulling people together and quality ideas on how to pull off a more professional orchid show, we will have a great Orchid Quest show this year!

We still can use helpers for all three days, including set up **Friday**, and with the show on **Saturday** and **Sunday**. Please contact Meg, [megmcl6@gmail.com](mailto:megmcl6@gmail.com), about your availability and strengths. All are welcome to just stop by and Meg will find a spot for you!

I hope you had a chance to listen to Chuck on the Larry Meiller, <https://www.wpr.org/programs/garden-talk>, if not please click on the ink to listen to the recording. Because of this interview and Cynthia doing an ad on the show, we have a new vendor! Not orchids but something different, an artist who mounts insects, and sells fossils and minerals etc.

Cynthia has also found a new vendor for us this year, Felly's Flowers from Madison, <https://www.fellys.com/>. This is a local family business.

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Our February meeting will be advertised to the public with Fred Clarke on

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**Board:**

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**Liaisons:**  
 AOS: Nancy Thomas  
 MAOC: Lynn West

## SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING

The January 2023 members' meeting focused on the final updates to prepare for Orchid Quest 2023. The highlights of Terri's (show chair) power point presentation will be provided below. The presentation by the Olbrich librarian to describe the new Orchid Growers Guild library collection was canceled and may be rescheduled for a future meeting. However, Sandra Gray, the OGG chair of the library project, provided a summary to OGG members.

The OGG document collection will now be housed within the Olbrich library and will be available starting in February 2023 to all paid members as well as honorary members. Olbrich will be provided with a list of current members to verify checkout authorization. The library will be open during the hours that our monthly meetings are held at Olbrich. Materials can be checked out for 30 days with additional 30-day renewals possible. The list of books will be maintained on-line by Olbrich library staff and they have the capability to monitor book usage to help inform the OGG library committee on type of books to consider for future purchases to maintain an update to date collection. One provision of the agreement with Olbrich to house our collection is that OGG is required to have at least one meeting that is open to the public. The public meeting will be in February with Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids, giving a talk on black deciduous orchids via Zoom.

—Lynn West

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Zoom. This is our officially noted open meeting for the public which is required by our new agreement with the Olbrich Library. Actually all of our meetings are open to the public.

At the last meeting, the bulb in our old projector burned out. Due to the cost to replace the bulb and the much better quality now available in projectors, we will be researching a replacement projector. We don't want the issues we had with Ross Hella's unnaturally shaped flowers being presented in a power point. We owe you, the audience, and the presenters to have a quality projector. We are looking at ones in which the room lighting will not have a pronounced effect. The quality of visualization of the presentation is a key to enjoyment of our meetings.

Again thanks to all of you for your participation in the Guild to help us share our knowledge, enthusiasm, and organization with the public for orchid awareness and concern.

— Sue Reed



Chuck Acker accompanied by Meg McLaughlin, recently spoke to the Greentree Garden Club. He presented slides during the program of Meg's growing setup for her 92 plants. The presentation garnered a lot of interest for Orchid Quest as well as the up-coming Orchid Escape, January 28 – February 28 in the Bolz Conservatory.

# ORCHID QUEST UPDATE

Orchid Quest is fast approaching Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5. I welcome all the new members to help us with set-up on Friday, February 3 at Olbrich. I welcome all the experienced members to teach others what you are doing and what needs to be done. Next year we will be looking for a new vendor coordinator and a new assistant for the computer registration. Come and talk to those currently volunteering to discover what you might want to help with in the future.

It takes an army to pull Orchid Quest off. We expect 1,000-3,500 visitors over that weekend. In order for everything to go smoothly, we need YOU. Be sure you have volunteered for a few hours here and there and everywhere. Meg McLaughlin is in charge of volunteers and she can help you find a place. You don't have to work long at any one place, we can move you around unless you like your niche.

Bring your blooming orchids by noon on Friday to the Atruim for Sue and her crew to arrange our exhibit. (Email Sue Reed [greed@chorus.net](mailto:greed@chorus.net) with your planned flourishing blossoms by

Tuesday). Remember, you are a member of the Orchid Growers Guild. We really want to represent our Guild well and in order to do that we need everyone's blooming plants. If each of our members brings just two plants we will have 60+ blooming plants in our exhibit. Bring more if you have them, no limit. We would like to hit 100. Help us make that possible.

We need more volunteers to help clerk for the judges. That means letting Meg McLaughlin [megmcl6@gmail.com](mailto:megmcl6@gmail.com) know you can help. We have only 17 signed up and we need about 30. It will make everyone's life easier Saturday morning if we have all these clerks. Join us. It is a great learning experience that money cannot buy. Saturday 6:30 AM in the upstairs meeting room, snacks provided. Let Meg know.

AND THANK YOU for all you are planning to do at Orchid Quest. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and working alongside of you.

Terri Jozwiak  
Orchid Quest Chair  
608-592-7906

## ORCHID QUEST TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**

**Evening** Provide Sue Reed with list of plants to be entered in the show.

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 01**

**Evening** Let Sue know if a plant is no longer coming.

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 03**

**09:30AM** The first activity is to install the plastic covering over the head house garage door to protect plants being transferred from vehicles to inside of Olbrich.

**09:45AM** Volunteers helping with table setup only. Vendor and society tables first, followed by judging room tables and lastly the classrooms.

**10:30AM** All other volunteers can arrive and start working on activities that they have signed up for.

**1:30PM** Ian's pizza delivered

Park anywhere on this day. Do not enter through the

public door if bringing in items for the show.

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 04**

**06:30-07:00AM** Volunteers for clerking can enter through the head house. Park in the remote lot.

Valet parking is available.

**07:00-07:30AM** Catered breakfast for volunteers and judges in judging room.

**07:30AM** Judging teams charged with duties.

**09:30AM** Volunteers who are not clerking can arrive and enter through head house. Be there at least a half hour before your shift. Park remotely and request valet service.

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 05**

**09:30 AM** Volunteers can start arriving for their shifts. Park remotely and request valet service. Enter through head house.



# SPRING (SHOW SEASON) IS UPON US!

Well, admittedly, looking outside it doesn't appear that way, but indoors the spring show season is close at hand, and very welcome after all the previous pandemic cancellations. All of your plants that weren't quite ready to show at Orchid Quest have chances to shine in February and March. And all of you who'd like to try your hand at setting up an orchid exhibit and/or visiting a neighboring society's show will have a few chances to do so soon! Our Away Show teams are starting to fill up, but there are still needs and opportunities for volunteers, regardless of your experience. Watch your plants for bloom potential and check your calendars to see if you can get away on a Friday (set up) or Sunday (take down) for one of these shows:

**Batavia Orchid Society Show, February 24-25**, set up on the 23rd, will be in a new venue, Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Road in Wheaton IL. Sue Reed, Nancy Thomas, Jeff Metcalf and Jim Wasser will be doing set up and take down.

**Wisconsin Orchid Society's Spring Show, March 4-5**, set up on the 3rd, is in the Expo Greenhouse at Milaeger's, 4838 Douglas Avenue, Racine, WI. Their theme is "Orchids for Everyone". Terri Jozwiak, Jeff Metcalf and Jim Wasser will be doing set up and take down there.

**Illinois Orchid Society's Spring Show, March 11-12**, set up on the 10th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe IL. Their theme is "Forbidden Fruit". Jeff Metcalf and Jim Wasser from Iowa can be there to help, but we need one or more folks from the Madison area to join them, bringing plants and supplies from here.

If you haven't experienced an away show, think seriously about giving it a try. You can get a ride and on the way, get to know the other members you'll be working with. You can apply your creative skills to the challenge of arranging our beautiful plants during set up Fridays (usually a full day of work). You can meet the members of other societies in a collegial atmosphere, as well



as getting to know the vendors and browsing their stock as they set up. Sunday take downs (usually a long half day) give you the first chance at the "big reveal" when you see what ribbons and awards our members won. You can scope out the other exhibits to see which beauties took the biggest prizes, and we usually arrive early to have a chance to look for bargains on the vendor tables.

If you haven't sent a plant to an Away Show before, then make this your year! If every member could send just one plant, we'll do ourselves proud. We'll try to make it easy for you by helping you find the right class and sorting out any name ambiguities. You'll be supporting our efforts to reciprocate for the wonderful displays our neighboring societies brought to Orchid Quest this year. If you want to volunteer or just have questions, contact me, Nancy Thomas, by email ([mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)) or phone (608-523-3607).



Jeff Metcalf's *Potinara* ('Velvet Rubies' x 'Star Fire')

# CALL 911!! MAXILLARIA TENUIFOLIA

by Chuck Acker

A long time customer from the Orchids by the Acker's days and long time OGG member Sandy River, brought her *Maxillaria tenuifolia* to the meeting asking me if it may need repotting. As you can see it did indeed need repotting, long, long ago! Sandy mentioned obtaining this as a



small plant (3" pot) donated by Meg McLaughlin many years ago and that she never repotted it since then. What a specimen! I applaud her ability to keep this plant so healthy, so long, in that little 3" pot!

*Maxillaria tenuifolia* is a Mexican species known for the pungent aroma of coconut emerging from the small red/

maroon colored flowers which bloom in the spring and summer, lasting close to two months.

There are many challenges to repotting an orchid with this type of "climbing" growth pattern. First, I needed to assess the many climbing rhizomes growing up above the original 3" pot cluster and decipher where to cut them to maximize the number of divisions which I could make from this massive specimen. After several minutes of assessing, I was able to see where I could make cuts and ended up with 58 pieces of these climbing rhizomes! Each rhizome piece needs to have 3 to 4 pseudobulbs which is an optimal number of pseudobulbs for a viable division of any orchid to grow healthily. Notice that these rhizome pieces do not have any noticeable roots at this time. (Picture 2)



Picture 2

Now it's time to assess the original plant portion that was rooted and growing in that little 3" pot. After finally getting the tightly packed root-ball out of its pot, I then divided it in half, then divided each of those halves in half and continued that until I had 10 nice sized root-ball divisions of the original plant. Once I had these root-ball divisions laid out and assessed their size and structure, I then trimmed each one to end up with 10 divisions having a minimum of 3 to 4 pseudobulbs each. (Picture 3)



Picture 3

Next task is potting up the 10 root-ball divisions. I set each division in a 4" pot at the correct depth to accommodate the newest (uppermost) pseudobulb so it is close to the bark line. My mix is 4 parts medium Orchiate and 1 part perlite. I add this mix to the pot and firm it gently with my fingers.



# CONGRATULATIONS SCOTT WEBER!

Scott Weber was recently honored by the American Orchid Society as a winner of an AOS 2022 Philip E. Keenan conservation award recognizing an individual in the study or preservation of native orchids north of Mexico. Scott lectures on native orchids and prairie restoration, and he also leads tours for the Prairie Enthusiasts and Nature Conservancy and for our Guild members. He is a member of the Madison Orchid Growers Guild and the Orchid Conservation Coalition. Although the February 2023 article in *Orchids* on his work emphasizes the restoration work Scott and his wife Muffy have carried out on their Bluestem Farm, unmentioned is Scott's important experimental work on the propagation of native orchids and their reintroduction into the wild. He also works on management and restoration at The Ridges Sanctuary in Door County and other important wetlands throughout Wisconsin. Congratulations, Scott!



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I then moved on to potting up the 58 rhizome divisions that were cut from the upper canopy of the original plant. This task required some extra trimming so these pieces could be planted at the correct depth. Much like the root-ball divisions, these pieces needed to be planted where the uppermost pseudobulb was as close to the bark line as possible. To do this, some of the lowermost pseudobulbs are buried in the bark and that is OK. Instead of potting all 58 into individual pots, these actually do better when 3-4 pieces are used in one pot. (Picture 4)



Picture 4

I want to give thanks to Chris Hopka, Drumlin Nursery (where I am growing my Phrag collection) for his contribution of the 23 pots and labels, as well as allowing me to keep these plants on his heat bench to help stimulate new root growth before they go to their new homes. (Picture 5)



Picture 5

Sandy River will receive one of these plants to put back in her collection and has agreed to donate the remaining 22 plants to the Guild! Thank you Sandy! It was a fun and challenging project for me. If you are interested in a plant of this species, they will be available for purchase at the OGG table during Orchid Quest and all proceeds go to OGG!

# JANUARY OGG RIBBON JUDGING

## First Place

Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> QF Red Wings (Eric Young x Red Rocket)
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Columbianum ( <i>schlimii</i> x <i>manzurii</i> )
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Fritz Schomburg ( <i>kovachii</i> x <i>besseae</i> )
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Fritz Schomburg ( <i>kovachii</i> x <i>besseae</i> v <i>flavum</i> )
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Bubble Gum (Hanne Popow x Silver Eagle)
Jeff Baylis	<i>Dendrobium</i> <i>peguanum</i> x <i>sib</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Cymbidium</i> Cherry Blossom 'Profusion' ( <i>floribundum</i> x <i>erythrostylum</i> )
Ken Cameron	<i>Brassanthe</i> Maikai ( <i>B. nodosa</i> x <i>Gur. bowringiana</i> )
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Wilsonara</i> John Wilson
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Potinara</i> Marlene Lindquist (Classy Lady x George King)
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Puppy Love 'True Beauty' ( <i>C. Dubiosa</i> x <i>L. anceps</i> )
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Dendrobium</i> <i>glomeratum</i>
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Lc</i> Rosebud x <i>Blc</i> Robert and Michael
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> <i>hainanense</i>
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Saint Ouen flavum (Gold x Mitzi)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> <i>spicerianum</i>
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Blc</i> Verdant Venture (Green-heart x Emerald Meadow)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Brassanthe</i> Maikai 'Mayumi' ( <i>B. nodosa</i> x <i>Gur. bowringiana</i> )
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Delight ( <i>spicerianum</i> x Stone Lovely)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Living Fire ( <i>besseae</i> x Sorcerer's Apprentice)

## Second Place

Steven Thimling	<i>Epidendrum</i> <i>nocturnum</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Epidendrum</i> <i>centropetalum</i> (Red x self)
Ken Cameron	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sogo Vivien (Sogo Alice x Zuma's Pixie)
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Potinara</i> ('Velvet Rubies' x 'Star Fire')
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Cattleya</i> <i>loddigesii</i>
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Cymbidium</i> Weston Ferrell (Mighty Mouse x <i>floribundum</i> )
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Rosalie Dixler ( <i>besseae</i> x <i>kaieteurum</i> )
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Acker's Spirit (Acker's Lovely x Hanne Popow)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hawaiian Star (Memoria Barbara Duncan 'Predominately Red' x Hawaiian Treasure 'Incredible')
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Wilsonara</i> Space Mine 'Red Rendezvous' ( <i>sphacelatum</i> x Carmine)



Jeff Metcalf's *Dendrobium glomeratum*



Meg McLaughlin's *Blc* Verdant Venture (Green-heart x Emerald Meadow)



Meg McLaughlin's *Paphiopedilum hainanense* x *wolterianum*





Meg McLaughlin's *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*



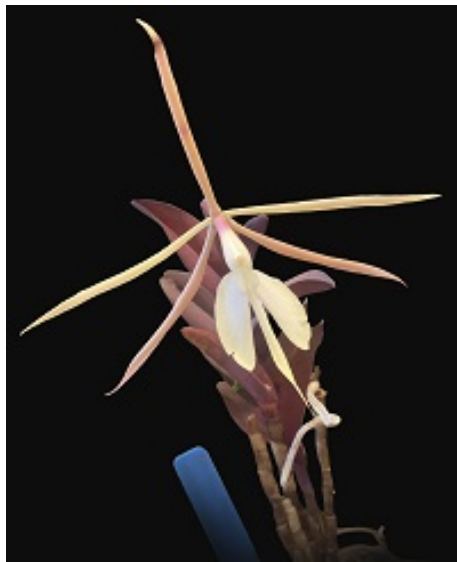
Chuck Acker's *Phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg (kovachii x besseae)*



Jeff Metcalf's *Wilsonara John Wilson*



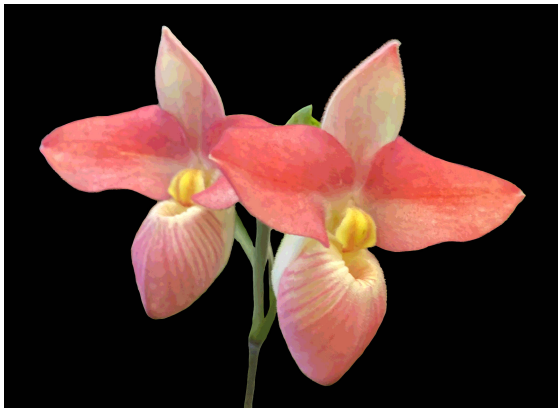
Meg McLaughlin's *Phragmipedium Living Fire (besseae x Sorcerer's Apprentice)*



Steven Thimling's *Epidendrum nocturnum*



Chuck Acker's *Phragmipedium Columbianum (schlimii x manzurii)*



Meg McLaughlin's *Phragmipedium Saint Ouen flavum Gold x Mitzi)*



Chuck Acker's *Phragmipedium Bubble Gum (Hanne Popow x Silver Eagle)*



Gary Lensmeyer's *Cymbidium Cherry Blossom 'Profusion' (floribundum x erythrostylum)*



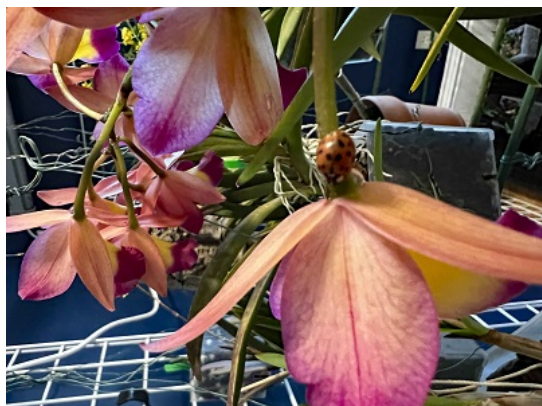
MEMBER'S BLOOMING PLANTS ...



Sue Reed's *Coelogyne cristata*. "This began as a cutting from the wild *Coelogyne* from an OGG repotting meeting. It survived!"



Amy Holt's *Howeara* Lava Burst 'Puanani' (*Leomesezia* Mini-Primi x *Rodriguezia lanceolata*). "This little darling has survived multiple chipmunk attacks. It probably came from OQ over 10 years ago."



Cynthia Wadsworth has ladybug beetles. Which are a natural predator of three of the most common orchid pests: Aphids. Mealybugs. Spider Mites.



Sue Reed's *Ctasm. fimbriatum* 'Golden Horizon' x *Ctasm osculatum* 'SVO'. "My project plant has finally bloomed.!"



Lori O'Neill's *Paphiopedilum* Starke Raving Maude (Barry Starke x Red Maude). "This pretty much blooms every year with several flowers. It was purchased from Home Depot in 2005."



Meg McLaughlin, Chuck Acker with Larry Meiller in the control room for Garden Talk on NPR



Jeff Metcalf's *Lc* Rosebud x *Blc* Robert and Michael