



THE MID-AMERICAN

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS (MAOC)

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Letter From the President

Welcome to this edition of the Mid-American newsletter. As I approach the one-year anniversary of becoming President of the MAOC, I want to take a moment to look back at some of the highlights from the past year. In February, the MAOC hosted a webinar by Ron Parsons titled, “Madagascar, a Land of Many Contrasts”. In another offering to our member societies, Past-President of the MAOC, Cheryl Erins, provided an overview of her recent trip to the World Orchid Conference in Dresden, Germany.

A significant personal highlight was attending orchid shows in cities that I hadn’t previously been to and having the opportunity to chat with the members of the member societies hosting the events. A consistent discovery was a welcoming atmosphere and the willingness to share a love of orchids from everyone to whom I spoke. I fully intend to continue this practice in the year ahead.

Looking forward, we have the Fall Members Meeting of the MAOC in Dayton, Ohio in August in conjunction with the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest hosted by the Miami Valley Orchid Society. They have put together a distinguished group of speakers and, for those of us that want to add to our collections, a great selection of vendors. I heartily encourage anyone that can attend to do so and participate in the “social side” of the MAOC.

Along those same lines, I am pleased to announce that the Orchid Guild of Madison Wisconsin will be hosting the Spring Members Meeting of the MAOC on February 6 and 7, 2027 in conjunction with their Orchid Quest Show at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. It has been a while since we last held a Spring Members meeting but this gives us yet another chance to reconnect with old friends and develop new friendships while visiting a great venue and orchid show. We’ll be sure to get details out to everyone as they become available.

Happy Growing!
Bob Hydzyk, MAOC President



Oeonia rosea

Photo by Ron Parsons while in Madagascar.

Inside This Issue:

- 1—Letter From the President
- 2—August 21-23 Orchid Fest
- 3— MAOC Spring Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin
February 5-7, 2027
- 3—By-Laws Submission
Announcement
- 4—Affiliated Society Reports
 - Ron Parsons on Madagascar
 - Cheryl Erins tour of 2026 WOS
- 4—Grant Use Report
- 5—Archives: Early MAOC History
by Matthew Montoya Rush
- 6—Delbert Lowell Jacks Trophy
- 7—MAOC 2026 Contact List
- 8—Society Listing and Website
- 9—Society Membership Form

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest Aug 21-23, 2026

www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com



OHIO VALLEY ORCHID FEST
AUGUST 21-23 2026
REGISTER & INFO: www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com

Miami Valley Orchid Society & Emmanuel Lutheran Church
4865 WILMINGTON PIKE
KETTERING, OHIO

INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS
FRANK CERVERA
MONSTER ISLAND ORCHIDS

ROSS HELLA
DEERWOOD ORCHIDS

BARRY WOOLF
TEN SHIN ORCHIDS

GREAT FOOD

LEARNING
LECTURES
REPOTTING
DEMONSTRATIONS

PLANT SALES
ORCHIDS, CERAMICS
& AROIDS
LOCAL, REGIONAL &
INTERNATIONAL VENDORS

ORCHID SHOW
AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY JUDGING
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
MID AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS



The full registration for the entire weekend is a bargain, even if attending only one day! It includes Preview Party, 4 Keynote Lectures (2 on Fri, 2 on Saturday), snacks all weekend, a goody bag, lunches and dinners, and a gift certificate to use at the Show.

Full Registration: \$80 before August 1,
\$100 after August 1.

Separate Item Tickets also available.

OVOF is open to the public on Saturday 9-5, and Sunday 12 till 3:00. There will be ticketed events including 2 keynote speakers and the Preview Party on Friday, August 21.

Tickets can be purchased in advance on the [Square Registration Site](http://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com) or at the door.

Two internationally known MAOC Sponsored Keynote Speakers each presenting on both Friday and Saturday:
[Frank Cervera](http://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com)— Monster Island Orchids and Tropical Plants
[Ross Hella](http://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com) - Deerwood Orchids
Plus Barry Woolf—Representing Ten Shin Gardens—on Sunday

ORDER ORCHIATA ORCHID BARK

Orchid Fest is placing a group pre-order for Full and Half Bags of Orchiata Orchid Bark. Orders may be placed **until July 10th** on the [Square Registration Site](http://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com). Bags may be picked up at Orchid Fest. We will have additional Orchiata available at Orchid Fest for purchase.

Half Bag of Orchiata: \$23, Preordered

Full Bag of Orchiata: \$38, Preordered

Choose from 5 bark sizes!

Unable to attend in Dayton, Ohio?

If a society pays just \$35, a code will be sent so each Society's Member can view the keynote lectures online.

Find hotel information, vender list, schedule and more on the website!

www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com

Mark your calendars!

MAOC sets February '27 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin

The Orchid Growers Guild (OGG) of Madison (Wis.) is hosting the Mid-America Orchid Congress February 5-7, 2027. Break up your winter blues with a beautiful dash of Orchid madness!



The MAOC meetings and expo will coincide with the OGG's annual **Orchid Quest** – the largest orchid show in the Upper Midwest. Orchid Quest is held in the beautiful Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center® located in downtown Madison, Wis., on the shores of Lake Monona.

Join over 1,700 orchid enthusiasts to see an exhibition featuring more than 550 orchids in spectacular

displays by at least seven regional orchid societies. Orchid Quest's vendor area features 15 specialty orchid nurseries from across the USA and overseas. Plus, there are two full days of lectures and workshops.

We will provide more information – including package pricing and lodging accommodations – in the months ahead.

Watch the MAOC website (midamericanorchids.org) and the OGG website (orchidgrowersguild.org) for more details.



Monona Terrace® is the fulfillment of Frank Lloyd Wright's "dream civic center."

Licensed Photo by permission.

For now, mark your calendars for **February 5-7, 2027**, in Madison ... we hope to see you there!

By-Laws Committee Submission

The By-Laws Committee has submitted text for inclusion/addition to Article III Members for the creation of "Supporting Member" category. Proposed text below:

E. There shall be a Supporting Member category (annual dues amount to be determined by the Executive Committee) for those individuals that wish to further support and participate in the activities of the MAOC. This category does not entitle the right to vote in full membership meetings as an official delegate but does entitle the holder to participate in those meetings and hold office (whether elected or appointed). A Supporting Member who is also a valid society member and delegate in accordance with these bylaws shall not be denied the right to vote in members' meetings.

Voting to formally amend the Constitution and By-Laws to include this language will be held as part of the Annual MAOC Members Meeting over Zoom in November or December 2026 - specific date/time will be included in an upcoming "MAOC Minute" release. This notice fulfills the 60-day advance notice to member societies for any alterations or amendments to the Constitution and By-Law as required by Article XV.

Affiliated Societies

“Madagascar, a Land of Many Contrasts” Report



Ron Parsons treated us to a wonderful presentation on February 2nd, 2026 highlighting Madagascar.

He covered animals, unusual plants and of course, many orchids found in Madagascar.



Cynorchis lowiana

Photo by Ron Parsons in Madagascar

Online Tour of the World Orchid Congress in Dresden, Germany Report



Cheryl Erins led a most incredible tour online of the 2026 World Orchid Congress held in Dresden, Germany. To say the orchids were floriferous is an understatement when the single orchid pictured here has 150 inflorescences! It was Best in Show, in a 2.5 meter pot! Cheryl declared the entire plant “pristine”!

In a facility the size of a soccer field, orchids were arranged in imaginative and inspiring ways. One cabinet rotated, another displayed orchids in various growing conditions to prove that anyone can grow orchids!

Tokyo Japan will host the next World Orchid Congress in 2029. Cheryl says the expense is well worth it!

Reports of MAOC Conservation Grants Awarded in 2024

Grant Report – Donna Lipowicz

September 2024 NFOS used the MAOC grant to purchase Aluminet shade cloth 28x28 ft at \$438.70 from the Greenhouse Megastore for the Orchid Collection at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens. Please see the following pictures which show Sue Charles and Bob Hartman securing the shade cloth over the orchid collection. NFOS does not have much control in the greenhouse, so we look for ways to help us as volunteers to do what’s best for the collection. NFOS appreciates the generosity of MAOC as they continue to allow us to improve our mission to make Buffalo an Orchid Destination.



From the Archives By Matthew Montoya Rush

Early History of the Mid-America Orchid Congress MAOC Historical Committee

The Mid-America Orchid Congress was organized in 1959 as a regional gathering of orchid societies with the goal of *effecting closer relationships through meetings devoted to the knowledge and appreciation of orchids*. Since its inception it has grown to include more than 70 societies from the east coast to great plains, and Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. With strong ties and collaboration to the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest, MAOC has served to train and elect leaders for national organizations while serving as a regional incubator for change. As a collective of orchid societies and individuals, the MAOC has worked to set standards for orchid shows through its development and revision of a regional show schedule; help establish six regional judging centers (Atlanta, Cincinnati, Chicago, Great Lakes, Mid-America, & Toronto); fund orchid research and conservation projects; host world-class speakers; and publish books and handouts on orchid care. The MAOC quarterly newsletter, the Mid-American, has run continuously since January 1962, and more than 100 MAOC meetings have been held in conjunction with local and national orchid shows.

It would be nearly impossible to outline all the work that has been accomplished by the MAOC in its 67-year history, but here is a brief outline of the early years as we continue to research and highlight notable events in MAOC history. As we unearth new and interesting facts, we will be sure to publish more information. MAOC is an organization of societies but has always been, and will continue to be, advanced by individuals. If you have any historical documents pertinent to MAOC that you would like to share, please reach out to the MAOC Historical Committee by contacting Matthew Montoya Rush at MatthewMontoyaRush@gmail.com.

The first ten years of MAOC meetings & society membership:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ORCHID SOCIETY</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP TOTAL</u>
1959	1st Mid-America Orchid Congress, St Louis, MO – October, 1959 Central Illinois Orchid Society Illinois Orchid Society Kentucky Orchid Society Land of Lincoln Orchid Society Michigan Orchid Society Missouri Orchid Society Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee	Founding 8
1960	Spring – Executive Committee New Orleans Orchid Society	9
	2nd Mid-America Orchid Congress, Chicago, IL – October 8, 1960 Central Ohio Orchid Society Orchid Society of Greater Saint Louis	11
1961	3rd Mid-America Orchid Congress, Nashville, TN – March 10-12, 1962 Atlanta Orchid Society Kansas City Society of Orchidology	13
1962	4th Mid-America Orchid Congress, Kansas City, MO – March, 1962 Orchid Society of Central Kentucky Indiana Orchid Society Saginaw Valley Orchid Society Tennessee Valley Orchid Society	17
	<i>Certificate of affiliation with the AOS</i> <i>Creation of Education and Scientific Committee</i>	
1963	5th Mid America Orchid Congress, New Orleans – November, 1963 Central Iowa Orchid Hobbyists	18

Incorporated as Non-profit

\$500 Orchid Research fund @ University of Kentucky → \$275 set aside for future research projects

- 1964 **Spring – Executive Committee**
Knoxville Orchid Society 22
Cleveland Orchid Society
Cincinnati Orchid Society
Memphis Orchid Society

Plans made to publish “Intensive Orchid Course Book”

- 6th Mid-America Orchid Congress, Chattanooga, TN – November, 1964**
Smokey Mountain Orchid Society 23

Committees: Annual Meeting, Auditing, Constitution & Bylaws, Education & Research, Membership, Nominating, Publication, Trophy)

- 1965 **7th Mid-America Orchid Congress, Detroit, MI – Pointe Orchid Forum**

- 1966 **8th Mid-America Orchid Congress, St Louis, MO – October, 1966**
Wisconsin Orchid Society 24

*Preparation of: The Biology of Orchids [Calaway H Dodson, 1967]
Plant Auction – raised \$300 (1st important MAOC Auction)*

- 1967 **Spring – Executive Committee**
Miami Valley Orchid Society 25

9th Mid-America Orchid Congress, Chicago, IL – November, 1967
Schedule Committee charged with designing a uniform show schedule

- 1968 **10th Mid-America Orchid Congress, Southfield, MI – October 12, 1968**
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society 26

References: Evolution and Early History of the Mid-America Orchid Congress: Based upon the Official Minutes of Meetings of the Mid-America Orchid Congress From 1959-1969. Barbara Brown & David Brown, October 2001.

By Matthew Montoya Rush

About Delbert Lowell Jacks Trophy for Best Specimen Plant

The MAOC Delbert Lowell Jacks Award pictured here, recognizes growers and exhibitors of the Best Specimen Plant in an MAOC Show. Initially a fund was established for this trophy as an annual award. Soon it received further endowment, making it available at both Spring and Fall Shows.

Delbert Lowell Jacks, the namesake of this Award resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is a longtime member of the Atlanta Orchid Society. He is an Emeritus AOS Judge in the Atlanta Judging Center and served as President of MAOC and on MAOC committees.

*Phragmipedium Grande ‘Monroe’ (Longifolium x humboldii),
Lori Lickly (Saginaw Valley Orchid Society)
Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen MAOC (2019)*





Trophies are made possible through donations to an endowment fund designated exclusively for each trophy. If you would like to contribute to this or any of the trophies listed on the MAOC website, please make the donation to the MAOC care of Treasurer Jeanne Rhinehart, 6222 Leroy Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230. MAOC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit for tax purposes.

Paphiopedilum Dark Child 'Howard P. Martin' AM/AOS,
owner Howard P. Martin, Niagara/Frontier OS
Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen MAOC (2023)
Photo by Eric Sauer

MAOC 2026 Contact List

OFFICERS	Communications: Jeanne Rhinehart
President: Bob Hydzik wolf71758@gmail.com	jeanws@me.com
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Secretary: Kris Mason orchidbiochem@aol.com	Education and Research: Cheryl Erins lilactree078@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com	Historical: Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRS	Nominating: Eric Sauer eric@rvorchids.com
Affiliated Societies: Jill Wood Jill_wood80@hotmail.com	Orchidist of the Year: Jan Yates jyates4110@gmail.com
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Budget: Jan Yates jyates4110@gmail.com	Ways and Means: Anh Rongish anhrongish@gmail.com

2026 MAOC Member Societies

SOCIETY	WEBSITE
Alabama Orchid Society	facebook.com/alabamaorchidsociety
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	https://annarbororchidsociety.org/
Atlanta Orchid Society	atlantaorchidsociety.org
Batavia Orchid Society	bataviaorchidsociety.org
Carolinas Judging Center	www.carolinasjudgingcenter.org
Central Indiana Orchid Society	centralios.org
Central Iowa Orchid Society	centraliowaorchidsociety.org
Central Ohio Orchid Society	centralohioorchidsociety.org
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society	easterniowaorchidsociety.org
Grand Valley Orchid Society	grandvalleyorchidsociety.org
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	cincinnatiorchids.org
Greater Lansing Orchid Society	greaterlansingorchidsociety.inf
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	greateromahaorchidsociety.org
Gulf Coast Orchid Society	gcorchids.org
Illinois Orchid Society	illinoisorchidsociety.org
Kentucky Orchid Society	kyorchidsociety.com
Mansfield (Kingwood) Orchid Society	kingwoodcenter.org
Memphis Orchid Society	memphisorchids.org
Miami Valley Orchid Society	miamivalleyorchidsociety.com
Michigan Orchid Society	miorchidsociety.com
Native Orchid Preservation Education Society	nativeorchidpreservationeducationociety.com
Mobile Area Orchid Society	Facebook.com/SouthALOrchids
Niagara Frontier Orchid Society	niagarafrontierorchids.org
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society	newisos.org
Northland Orchid Society	northlandorchidsociety.org
Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society	facebook.com/groups/nomichOrchidSociety
Orchid Growers Guild of Madison	orchidgrowersguild.org
Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City	osgkc.org
Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis	osogsl.org
Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee	tnorchid.org
Orchid Society of Minnesota	orchidsocietyofminnesota.org
Orchid Society of the Ozarks	oso-web.org
Orchid Society of Western PA	oswp.org
Prairie State Orchid Society	facebook.com/prairiestateorchidsociety
Saginaw Valley Orchid Society	sagvalleyorchids.org
Southwest Florida Orchid Society	swfos.wildapricot.org
Springfield Orchid Society	www.facebook.com/groups/416838251841948/
Three Rivers Orchid Society	facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064312734536
West Shore OS of Northern OH	westshoreorchidsociety.org
Windsor Orchid Society	windsororchidsociety.ca
Wisconsin Orchid Society	wisconsinorchidsociety.com



THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

6222 LeRoy Place
Cincinnati, OH 45230
Tel. 513-383-3805
jeanws@me.com

I. ACTIVE SOCIETY DUES 2026

_____ x \$ 0.50 = \$ _____
(If membership is greater than 30 members up to a maximum of \$100)

OR \$ 15.00 PER SOCIETY \$ _____
(If membership is fewer than 30 members)

II. NAME OF SOCIETY: _____

President: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Secretary: _____

E-mail address: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Newsletter editor: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Main Mid-American Contact: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

OFFICERS' TERMS EXPIRE _____ **(MO/YR)**

SOCIETY WEB ADDRESS: _____

SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

Please pay by check to the above address or online at [Home | Mid America Orchid Congress](#) and email registration form to email above