



MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

***** SPECIAL EDITION *****

13 June 2017

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES REPORT

Spring Meeting

Omaha, NE

March 24-26, 2017

The Affiliated Societies Committee of the Mid-America Orchid Congress is issuing this special newsletter to keep you better informed of their purposes and continued dedication to help our membership improve their respective member societies by keeping them informed with valuable information and feedback.

The Affiliated Societies Committee consisting of five or more individuals appointed by the President works to strengthen communication and liaison among member societies and encourage member societies to become familiar with the activities of the other committees of the Congress and remind you of your benefits of being members of MAOC.

One of the most valuable assets they offer membership is the opportunity to attend the Affiliated Societies breakfast, usually held on Sunday morning. Chaired by the engaging and veteran Mary Beth Mansour, this

activity should be attended by all registrants concerned with the welfare of their member society! The committee is always thinking of an interesting or pertinent discussion topic for their breakfast that informs and educates; e.g. the future of your orchid collection - and then they really talk about it! Thanks for a job well done! I look forward to attending this event because of the opportunities to meet other attendees and learn about activities and/or solutions they are doing to entice new members and keep their society viable. One of the main reasons for attending these conferences is, to me, the camaraderie we share as orchidists. Don't miss the opportunity to attend and participate at the Affiliated Societies Breakfast to be held at our next Congress this Fall—you will be surprised what you might learn!

Doug Hartong, President
Mid-America Orchid Congress

The Affiliated Societies Breakfast Report

Our special meetings at the bi-annual congresses gather members of societies from throughout the Mid-American Orchid Congress to personally discuss issues of direct concern to local societies.

This special edition is to provide more details about these often very lively discussions of issues.



(Mary Beth Mansour leads an active group discussion at the Affiliated Society Breakfast in Omaha, and people are taking notes.)

These issues may be different for each society. Attending members at this congress were asked “What are the problems in your society?”

The questions/answers of major interest to participants were:

* How do societies store items that are needed for their show or meetings? One society rents space at a storage facility, while another uses

space at a member’s house (the society pays mileage for members to bring props to ‘away’ shows). One problem with member storage is that the job stays with you forever! Another society uses locker space set up for them at their meeting site. Sharing show supplies with another society is another option.

* How to attract younger members? Ads on Facebook are inexpensive. Offer discounted memberships. Time management at meetings is important to encourage attendance so people can get home at reasonable hour if they have to work the next day.

* A beginners’ group is important to attract and keep new members. It is important to have the right person run the beginners’ group. Limit the beginners’ group to 30 minutes before the general meeting. Topics could be: problem plants; new members bring in plants that need help; ‘What did you buy at the show?’ (new members tell what they bought so the care and interesting info about the plant can be discussed.) The AOS webinars are also a very good resource for beginners’ group topics. It was also noted that many regular long-time members often attend these meetings, too.

* A new member/beginner/visitor should be welcomed by a friendly

society member who can answer basic orchid question, like a ‘welcoming wagon committee’ or ‘friends-at-the-front-door.’

* Some societies have a moderator who, 30 minutes prior to the formal meeting, can answer questions regarding culture, acquiring plants, preparing plants for a show, re-potting or mounting plants, etc. Some call it the ‘Stump-the-Chump” time.

* Try to encourage new members to participate in the duties of hosting an upcoming show, set-up and take down at an away show and help with tasks such as hospitality, entry tags, etc.

* Have vendors at your show put your society membership forms in the bags of plants they sell.

* Programs bring people to meetings. One idea is to photograph different members’ growing areas; ask the same questions of those growers; then present as a slide show comparing the different growing methods. This approach exposes people to many growing styles without having the entire membership drive all over the county. Orchid Digest has programs, also. A good program is show prep: how to prepare your plants and transport to shows; how to mount plants or how to divide and pot up compots. Mentoring new people with older members has been successful with some societies.

* Distribution of an orchid collection when one is no longer able to care for the collection is a concern of orchid growers. The most important factor is to make a plan and discuss it with your family and with those to whom you will be giving the collection. Unless there is someone who can immediately take over the care of the orchids, it may be necessary to distribute the collection immediately while the orchids are healthy. Legal concerns may mandate that directives should be in writing. Many options exist: give orchids to friends; sell plants for owner’s estate; donate orchids to society to sell, using the profits for speakers or awards honoring the donor; donate books to a society, judging center or library. Many botanical gardens will accept donations of orchids especially if they have an orchid collection and if they don’t, you might want to suggest that they establish one. Friends in your society can be designated, but first talk it over with them so that they don’t get a call and suddenly be expected to go retrieve a collection when theirs is already bursting at the seams. If one plans the donations to merit a tax benefit, donations must be to a 501(c3) organization, and an independent qualified person must appraise the collection (not the donor or the recipient organization). Society members can also offer to assist in

caring for orchids when a grower is temporarily ill. The family appreciates the assistance.

The Next Breakfast

You are invited! The next Breakfast for the Affiliated Societies of the MAOC will be at the Crowne Plaza Cincinnati Blue Ash, a short drive from the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Show, Oct 20-22, 2017.

The topic to be discussed at the next Affiliated Societies Breakfast will be **MANAGING THE FINANCES OF YOUR SOCIETY**. Registration forms and more information will soon be available soon on the Mid-America website

(www.midamericanorchids.org)



The Affiliated Society Committee of the MAOC at their planning meeting on 24 March 2017 in Omaha (clockwise from left: Judith Rapacz-Hasler, Roberta Ginavan, Mary Beth Mansour (Chair), Susan Wilson, Susan Charles; Not pictured: Doris Asher, Jim Newsome.)

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact any member of the Affiliated Society Committee:

Mary Beth Mansour (Chair)

440-333-5364; mbmansour1@cox.net

Doris Asher

517-332-0004; asherdoris@juno.com

Susan Charles

716-912-5285; SCC1959@verizon.net

Roberta Ginavan

712-487-3085; ginavan@frontier.com

Jim Newsome

205-503-3522; jnews91126@aol.com

Judith Rapacz-Hasler

239-223-5540; jrapacz@wisc.edu

Susan Wilson

901-606-9454; SusanWilsonRN@gmail.com



THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

2503 Halifax Ct
Middletown, Ohio 45044
Tel: 513-423-8937
My3snakes@yahoo.com

I. ACTIVE SOCIETY DUES 2017

_____ x \$ 0.50 = \$ _____ **OR \$ 15.00 PER SOCIETY \$ _____**
(If membership is greater than 30 members) (If membership is fewer than 30members)

II. NAME OF SOCIETY: _____

President: _____

E-mail address: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mid-American Representative: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

To whom should we e-mail the Mid-American:

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address (if e-mail is not available):

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

OFFICERS' TERMS EXPIRE _____ (MO/YR)

SOCIETY WEB ADDRESS: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE