



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

Spring 2020

<http://www.midamericanorchids.org>

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Spring 2021 Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting

March 19-21, 2021

Mark your calendar. The Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting will be co-hosted by the Three Rivers Orchid Society, Michiana Orchid Society and the Central Indiana Orchid Society celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank at the Alumni Center on the Ball State University Campus, Muncie, IN. More information will be sent as an eBlast in January 2021.

The Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection is located within the 17-acre Christy Woods on the Ball State campus. The collection is the largest orchid species collection at a United States college.



Letter from the President

Ah, Spring and our thoughts turn to getting out of the House Because People OUTSIDE. Didn't know I'd miss them so. Can only talk to cats so long before they start talking back. With the mess in the world at least we have our orchids. And our friends because of orchids. We can't as yet get together, but we can be together in our thoughts. Talk/look and wonder at the marvels of nature. Well most go the cats are telling me or I should say little girl cat is telling me the food in the bowl is just not up to her standards. Be kind to yourself. And golf season is close.

All for now—Da Prez



Mid-American Orchid Congress Spring 2020

The Spring 2020 Mid-American Orchid Congress was held in conjunction with the Miami Valley Orchid Society at Cox Arboretum, Dayton, Ohio on February 15th and 16th, 2020.

It was a very successful show with many spectacular displays and plants.

Saturday started with ribbon judging followed by AOS Judging. The awarded plants and their photos can be found below.



Glen Decker (above) and David Haelterman were the speakers followed by the auction and a delicious banquet.

Sunday started with the Affiliated Society Meeting followed by the Business Meeting. Minutes can be found below. Past President Russ Vernon, Secretary Doris Asher, and Treasurer Michelle Little are pictured at right.

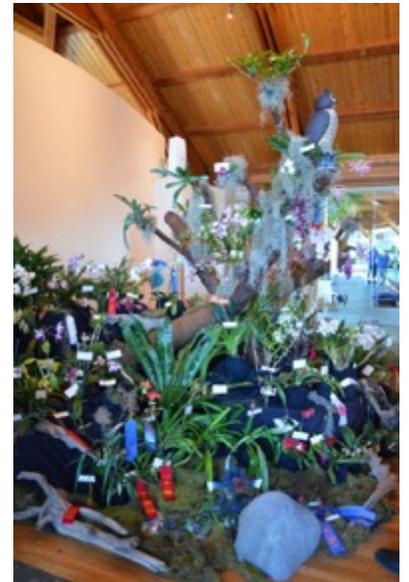




As always, the incoming president gets their special hat to recognize the seriousness of their special position. Here Russ Vernon presents Barry Jones with his hat.



Thanks to the Miami Valley Orchid Society and the show chairs Eric Sauer and Michelle Little.





--DRAFT--
Mid-America Orchid Congress
Spring Business Meeting
Cox Arboretum, Dayton, OH
February 21, 2020

President Russ Vernon called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

Secretary Doris Asher called the roll, and the following societies were represented:

Alabama Orchid Society	Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
Blue Grass Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
Central Indiana Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Minnesota
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	Orchid Society of the Ozarks
Greater Lansing Orchid Society	Peoria Orchid Society
Huntsville Orchid Society	Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society	Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
Memphis Orchid Society	South Metro Orchid Society
Miami Valley Orchid Society	Three Rivers Orchid Society
Michigan Orchid Society	Windsor Orchid Society
Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society (NOPES)	

The following societies were not represented:

Batavia Orchid Society	London Orchid Society
Central Iowa Orchid Society	Mansfield Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society	Michiana Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society	Mobile Area Orchid Society
Central Ontario Orchid Society	Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society	Northland Orchid Society
Essex County Orchid Society	Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
Grand Valley Orchid Society	Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI
Greater Akron Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater St Louis
Greater Cleveland Orchid Society	Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	Prairie State Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society	South Mississippi Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society	Springfield Orchid Society
Gulf Coast Orchid Society	West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio
Illinois Orchid Society	Wisconsin Orchid Society
Illowa Orchid Society	

Doris declared that there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: The Congress approved the minutes from the Business Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, September 15, 2019, as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michele Little gave a comprehensive report on the Congress' finances for the year 2019.

**MAOC Net Worth
Year End 2019**

PNC Checking	9287.00
PNC Money Market	55499.10
PNC CD #1 48 month 6/18/21	5508.47
PNC CD #2 36 month 6/21/20	6591.00
Total Net Worth	76885.57

Restricted funds **18780.78** **24.4%**
Unrestricted funds **58104.79** **75.6%**

2019 Trophy Fund Report 2/14/2020:

Fox Valley Trophy - Cypripedium Award (Spring)

2018 \$689.52
 Spring Exp \$41.25
 Income \$4.25 (Calculated at 2.5% of
 172.94-2018 interest income)
 2019 Bal \$ 652.52

Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen Award (Spring and Fall)

2018 \$1609.01
 Expense \$79.70
 Income \$9.91 (Calculated at 5.7% of
 172.94-2019 Interest Income)
 2019 Bal \$1539.22

Ray McCullough Trophy - Epidendrum/Encyclia Award (Fall)

2018 \$280.98
 Fall Exp \$55.80
 Income \$1.73 (Calculated at 1.0% of
 172.94 -2019 Interest Income)
 2019 Bal \$ 229.91

Christine Chowning Angraecum Species Award (Fall)

2018 \$433.57
 Fall Exp \$52.20
 Income \$2.67 (Calculated at 1.5% of 172.94-2019
 Interest Income)
 2019 Bal \$384.04

Clifford & Vivian Walters Oncidium Award (Fall)

2018 \$3946.49
 Fall Exp \$41.75
 Income \$24.45 (Calculated at 14.1% of
 172.94-2019 Interest)
 2019 Bal \$3929.19

Henry C. and Lois Holmes Oncidium Award (Spring)

2018 \$1170.27
 Spring Exp \$40.20
 Income \$7.21 (Calculated at 4.2% of
 172.94-interest income 2019)
 2019 Bal \$1137.28

FL Stevenson Pleurothallid Award (Spring)

2018 \$2145.01
 Spring Exp \$62.90
 Income \$13.22 (Calculated at 7.6% of
 172.94-2019 Interest)
 2019 Bal \$2095.33

Conservation Speaker's Fund (Spring- limit of \$750)

2018 \$6797.04
 Expense \$750.00
 Donations \$
 Income \$41.88 (Calculated at 24.2% of
 172.94 Interest Income 2019)
 2019 Bal \$6838.92

Shirley Burr Moore Speaker Fund (Fall Keynote Speaker)

2018	\$8072.66
Expense	\$1500
Income	\$49.74 (Calculated at 28.8% of 172.94 Interest Income 2019)
2019 Bal	\$6622.40

FL Stevenson Orchidist of the Year Award

2018	\$2239.99
Expense	\$62.90
Income	\$13.80 (Calculated at 8% of 172.94 Interest Income 2019)
2019 Bal	\$2190.89

Fox Valley	\$652.52
Ray McCullough	\$229.91
Clifford & Vivian Walters	\$3,929.19
FL Stevenson	\$2,095.33
Delbert Lowell Jacks	\$1,539.22
Christine Chowning	\$384.04
Henry C. and Lois Holmes	\$1,137.28
Conservation Speaker Fund	\$6838.92
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker Fund	\$6622.40
FL Stevenson Orchidist of the Year	\$2,190.89

Restricted Funds \$18780.78

Michele completed her report detailing the 2019 income and expenses compared to budgeted figures. Actual income for 2019 was \$7,161.09 (compared to a budgeted figure of \$15,400). Actual expenses for 2019 were \$11, 226.54 (compared to a budgeted figure of \$18,125). Bottom line for 2019: operated at a deficit of \$4,065.45.

Motion to approve passed.

Russ updated the delegates on various Committee news – new Committee members and Committee vacancies.

Committee Reports:

Affiliated Societies: Chair Donna Lipowicz announced that the Breakfast topic for the Spring meeting in Muncie, IN, will be “How Does Your Orchid Society Volunteer in Your Community?”. She reported that the Affiliated Societies discussion meeting held earlier in the morning on “How to Encourage Other Orchid Societies to Exhibit at Your Show” resulted in many suggestions and a lively exchange of ideas. This meeting was unusual in that it did not include a breakfast.

Motion to approve passed.

Annual Meeting: This Committee continues to have no Chair, but President Vernon reported that for our Spring 2021 meeting, the Three Rivers, Michiana, and Central Indiana Orchid Societies and the Friends of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse will co-host at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, March 19-21, 2021.

Fall 2021 and all other meeting dates are open.

Motion to approve passed.

AOS Liaison: Doris Asher presented the following report:

Since I last reported to you at our meeting in Milwaukee, WI, last fall on September 15, the AOS met in Homestead, FL, October 16-20. I want to report to you on the personnel actions that the Judging Committee took at that time:

Mid-America judges **promoted from Certified Judge, Associate to Certified Judge, Accredited:**
Patrick Vuurman (Toronto)

Mid-America judges **promoted from Student Judge to Certified Judge, Associate:**
Scott DeVito (Toronto)
Stanley Luk (Toronto)

Mid-America individuals **accepted as Student Judge:**
Atsushi Matsumoto (Atlanta)
Carlos Villarroel (Toronto)

One Mid-America judge requested change in status **to Senior Judge:**
Gail Furniss (Accredited) (Atlanta)

These Mid-America judges were granted **leaves of absence:**
Brittany Payeur (Accredited) (Chicago)
(leave of absence extended to 7/1/2020)
Richard Wells (Accredited) (Mid-America)
(5/11/19 – 11/09/19)

These Mid-America judges **returned from leaves of absence:**
Gilberto Arrieche-Sayago (Toronto)
John Gross (Student) (Mid-America)

his Mid-America judge **Resigned:**
Synda Nelson (Associate) (Chicago)

This Mid-America judge **Transferred:**
Stanley Luk (Associate) from Toronto to
Western Canada

Center Chairs and Vice Chairs elected for 2020:
Atlanta:

Chair: Doug Hartong;
Vice-Chair: David Mellard

Chicago:

Chair: Lois Cinert;
Vice-Chair: Nile Dusdieker

Cincinnati:

Chair: Alexa Noel;
Vice-Chair: Glenn Evans

Great Lakes:

Chair: Dennis Seffernick;
Vice-Chair: Greg Filter

Mid-America:

Chair: Nathan Bell;
Vice-Chair: David Taylor

Toronto:

Chair: Joyce Medcalf;
Vice-Chair: Theresa Kennedy

Montreal:

Chair: Andre Couture;
Vice-Chair: Marie-Odile Benoit-
Biancamano

2018 AOS Special Awards to Mid-America orchids:

Ann and Phil Jesup Botanical Trophy – *Ophrys speculum* subsp. *speculum* ‘Jim’ AM/80, exhibitor Jim Pyrzynski, photographer Jim Pyrzynski, submitted by Mid-America JC





Robert B. Dugger Award – *Oncidium alexandrae* ‘Cream’ AM/82, exhibitor New Vision Orchids, photographer Richard Noel, submitted by Cincinnati JC



Ernest Hetherington Award – *Cymbidium* Geno’s Gem ‘Emerald Fire’ AM/83, exhibitor John and Cheryl Jaworski, photographer Richard Noel, submitted by Cincinnati JC

Some general news items from the AOS which you may find of interest:

The post office is issuing a set of ten orchid stamps February 21st! The opening day ceremony will take place at the AOS Headquarters in Coral Gables. The stamps feature ten United States native species.

The Society published its eleventh special annual supplement last October on *Oncidium*. They are planning the twelfth supplement this fall on *Cymbidium*.

In April, the Society released its popular new orchid book, [The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and Their Culture](#) by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons. The book sold out the first run (2,500 copies) in June – Headquarters ordered more, which are now back in stock with a list price of \$24.95.

Although in Milwaukee, I announced the appointment of an AOS librarian, I am sorry to report that Jennifer Vina resigned on January 3, 2020. The Society is looking for her successor.

Ambitious IT projects – new OrchidsPlus (new name: OrchidPro). OrchidPro was accessible to members beginning October 1st and is now bundled with membership. A separate technology project aims to consolidate various computer systems such as iMIS into one integrated system enabling the office staff to move seamlessly among various databases instead of having to access several different programs, such as affiliated society records, member records, the website, etc.

The AOS experienced a very serious ransomware attack in the fall. Fortunately, our paid and volunteer IT specialists were able to recover everything – the Society paid no ransom. However, the “fix” was extremely expensive; in addition, the Society has increased its protection measures, which also cost money.

Members number 10,400 and have been consistently above 10,000 for several months. The Membership and Marketing Committees have been merged into a single committee and have been very effective in gaining new members. A new membership structure began January 1, 2020 – a “silver membership” and a “gold membership” – for an additional \$14 per year.

On April 10, 2021, the Society will celebrate its 100-year anniversary. Bob Fuchs is already hard at work putting together a celebration at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

The spring AOS Members' Meeting will be in Sacramento, CA, April 15-19, 2020, and I plan to attend.
Motion to approve passed.

Audit Committee: Chair Alexa Noel was not able to attend the meeting but sent her completed report to Jan Yates who read it:

On behalf of the MAOC Audit Committee, I have completed an audit of the financial records of the Mid-America Orchid Congress for the year 2019. I have found that the records are complete and in good order. All documents, receipts, and bank records are organized. All duties of the Treasurer were completed accurately.

Motion to approve passed.

Awards Committee: Chair Anna Morrison was unable to attend the meeting; Jan Yates filled in with this report:

The Mid-America Trophy for Most Outstanding Exhibit by an Affiliated Society to the Miami Valley Orchid Society Exhibit

The Henry C. Holmes Award for Best Oncidium Alliance Plant - *Brassia* Steve Male 'John's Gift' AM/AOS owned by New Vision Orchids/Russ Vernon, Yorktown, IN

Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for Best Specimen Plant - *C. trianae* 'Highjack' AM/AOS owned by Stephen Benjamin, Bardstown, KY

FL Stevenson Award for Best Pleurothallid - *Masd.* Marinrod 'Marsh Hollow' HCC/AOS owned by New Vision Orchids/Russ Vernon, Yorktown, IN

Fox Valley Award - Best Cypripedium Alliance plant. Awarded to the plant receiving the highest AOS award, or to the best of the Cypripedium class if no award. *Paph.* Magical Contrasts 'OK Two' AM/AOS of 86 points owned by Stephen Benjamin, Bardstown, KY

In addition to the Award of Merit given to *Paph.* Magical Contrasts 'OK Two' AM/AOS, American Orchid Society Awards were awarded to *Phrag.* QF Walter Sheeren 'Little Michele' AM/AOS of 82 points owned by Steve Helbling, Cincinnati, OH

Paph. hermanii 'Oakwood Shocked' HCC/AOS of 75 points owned by Jim France of Oakwood Orchids, Dayton, OH

Max. dicheoides 'River Valley' CBR/AOS owned by Eric Sauer, Dayton OH

Miami Valley Orchid Society Exhibit - AOS Show Trophy and Silver Certificate of 87 points
Motion to approve passed.

Budget: Jan Yates, Chair of the Budget Committee, presented the 2021 budget as follows:

The next Congress business meeting is scheduled for spring 2021 in Muncie, IN, which accelerated preparation and passage of the 2021 budget – the figures listed below reflect some trends and actions the MAOC is taking for long-term viability. It remains hard to identify societies which are interested in hosting a Congress; either a fully hosted one or an in-conjunction show in which the MAOC organizes the Congress' speakers, hotel, meals and meetings alongside a society's regularly scheduled orchid show. Travel expenses inhibit attendance at either kind. So, this budget reflects an experiment in which the MAOC offers an educational scholarship to

interested societies to offset some expenses and stoke interest in attending a Congress and show. 2021 will be the second year the scholarships are being offered and short-term, it puts the budget in the red. Long-term, MAOC delegates will evaluate the scholarships' success and decide whether to continue them.

2021 Estimated Income

Auctions	\$ 3,725.00
Donations and Honoraria	200.00
Investment income	125.00
MAOC loan repayment	n/a
MAOC In-conjunction show (possibly for fall 2021, nothing scheduled yet)	1,500.00
Show Tags	250.00
Society Dues	<u>1,400.00</u>
	\$ 7,300.00

Society dues are holding steady, which is promising. Donations and honoraria are lower, and donations are encouraged to support speakers, trophies, conservation and education projects.

2021 Estimated Expenses

Bank charges	\$ 0.00
Conservation grants	2,400.00
Conservation speaker (Endowed Fund)	750.00
Education Grants	900.00
Filing fee state of Ohio	50.00
Judging Center Support (\$150 to 6 AOS Judging Centers in MAOC region)	900.00
Liability insurance	550.00
MAOC In-conjunction show (none scheduled yet)	1,500.00
MAOC loan to host society	n/a
MAOC Newsletter	100.00
Officer expenses	150.00
Scholarships to Societies	1,500.00
Shirley B Moore Speaker Fund (Endowed Fund) (Pays \$750 toward domestic speaker expenses; \$ 1,500 toward international speaker)	1,500.00
Trophies (All trophies but one are endowed)	\$ 550.00
Website development	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 10,850.00

Of this amount, cash in hand in the endowed funds covers \$ 2,750 – other expenses, such as conservation grants, are limited not just by the dollars budgeted but by the number of grants approved.

Motion to approve passed.

Communications: Committee Chair Jeanne Rhinehart presented the following report:

Beth Martin and Jeanne Rhinehart met with Susan Wilson by phone. Discussion points were the scholarship program, the MAOC PowerPoint program, The Mid-American, personal contacts planned and a possible survey to affiliated societies.

Scholarships of \$500 each went to the Michigan Orchid Society, the Kentucky Orchid Society, and the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society. Carolyn Butcher attended from the Michigan Orchid Society. Gloria Teague, Pam LaRocco, Steve Benjamin, Janet Smith, Anne-Marie Blanquaert-Bruyninck, and Larry Attwood attended from the Kentucky Orchid Society. Donna Lipowicz, Sue Charles, Barb Domagala, and Cynthia Robinson attended from the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society. The winning societies could choose to have one member use the \$500 to attend or to split the amount among several members.

Susan and Charles Wilson are giving up the newsletter editor position after years of doing a great job keeping societies and their members apprised of the working of the Congress. Jeanne Rhinehart agreed to replace the Wilsons or to find someone else. Ann Tsui and Jeanne will work together on the newsletter.

The MAOC PowerPoint will be available on the website for affiliated society use. We hope to have volunteers to offer to present it to provide a free program to any society requesting this.

We also hope to personally contact several societies to help implement this. If any society would like to help with this, let Jeanne know jeanws@me.com.

The Excel registration file will be available after the present file has been updated with the new show schedule coming out in July 2020.

We also are creating a survey for societies to aid us in their knowledge of what MAOC does, what items they use, what else they would like help with, do they send representatives to annual meetings and why, what could be changed about the meetings to encourage their attendance and encourage committee membership.
Motion to approve passed.

Conservation: Chair Bill Morrison was unable to attend; Russ Vernon reported in Bill's absence.

The Congress currently has four conservation projects under way for 2020:

1. Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank at Ball State. They are looking to add species phalaenopsis this year.
2. NOPEs – continuing the restoration work
3. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St Paul, MN
4. Minnesota Landscape Arboretum buying sphagnum for their demonstration beds

Motion to approve passed.

Constitution and By-Laws: Although Chair Charles Wilson was not at the meeting, Russ Vernon reported on the numerous possible Constitution and By-Laws amendments that are needed to accommodate our requiring just one meeting a year.

Motion to approve passed.

Education and Research: Although Chair Cheryl Erins was unable to attend, Committee member Doug Hartong presented her report that she had emailed to Russ. "I have had no reports or proposals from anyone for anything to be included on the educational side of the Website. Any and all requests for something new should come to us for consideration. If the Conservation Committee will be outlining any large requests for funding, then, per usual, the Education and Research Committee would consider sharing the funding."

Motion to approve passed.

Historical: In the absence of a chair for this Committee, there was no report.

Orchidist of the Year: Doug Hartong is now the chair of this Committee. Doug reported that there would be no Orchidist of the Year at this time.

Motion to approve passed.

Show Schedule: Chair Lois Cinert was not at the meeting, but had emailed her report to Russ, who presented it:

“I have dotted all the 'i's, crossed all the 't's, minded my 'p's and 'q's, I hope to the satisfaction of everyone. We appreciate all who have participated in the extended conversations involved with producing the Show Schedule.

After two years of research, input from society registrars, growers of Pleurothallids and Dendrobiums, advice from those with taxonomic knowledge, the Mid-America Orchid Congress Show Schedule revision is ready for publication as of **July, 2020**.

The committee has repeatedly asked for input and suggestions over the last two years, and we have taken every one under advisement, discussed relevance, and adjusted the schedule as the committee has determined will help the exhibitors and the registrars in making their shows successful.

The **final** version can be found on our website <https://midamericanorchids.org>, along with a slightly revised Rules section, mostly edited for agreement with the numeric sequence changes in the Schedule. The Rules were extensively revised a few years ago. At this point, we intend to use this version of the Schedule for at least two years, to gather information on the effectiveness of the changes and which classes will need adjustment according to usage.

I have copied Doug Martin so he will have sufficient time to adjust the master list of classes in time for publication in July. I have copied Cheryl Erins so she will be able to post this on the MAOC web page in **July**. This should allow enough time for the societies in the Congress to adjust their documents for the fall show season.

Highlights:

Removal of all reference to *Sophronitis*, *Odontoglossum*, and *Doritis*. They are no longer accepted names.

Minor editing of some of the *Cattleya* Alliance classes for clarity.

Combining *Cattleya* Hybrids White and Semi-alba; numbers indicate two classes are too many for these.

Paphiopedilum Multiflora moved to the beginning of the section to alleviate confusion with the color-only classes, both for primary hybrid and for complex hybrid groups.

Moved the *Cypripedium* Class to the end of the group.

Removed reference to 'equitant' from the *Tolumnia* class.

Extensively changed *Dendrobium*, including several new classes to ease the large 'other' class.

Extensively changed *Pleurothallid*, dividing into several groups to acknowledge the wide variety of genera.

Added a class for orchids grown for foliage interest.

Codified the permission to double-enter Seedlings Blooming for the First Time and Specimen Plants.

Removed the miniature class. With the addition of classes to *Dendrobium* and *Pleurothallis*, and the division of some genera by size and color, it is possible to judge small-flowered plants in an appropriate genus class. We judge flowers, not leaves and pseudobulbs.

We always welcome comments and suggestions, but this has been in process for a long time, and this has to be the ending point for discussion now, until we see how the actual registered number of plants fall into the

new schedule. The growers and exhibitors will let us know through their use of the schedule what changes will need to be made in the future.

Thank you for your patience through this process, and please let us know how this schedule works for your society.”

Lois also provided the revised Show Schedule and the Rules and Regulations, both of which will be distributed to our affiliated societies on July 1, 2020.

Committee: Lois Cinert (Chair), Tom Harper, Nile Dusdieker, Nathan Bell
Motion to approve passed.

Technology: In Chair Cheryl Erins’ absence, Russ read her report: “I have completed several additions to the website, In Memoriam, which will get moved later. I also completed the announcements and documents for the MAOC registration and will await the information for next year's meeting. The minutes of the meetings once approved get posted as well as each issue of The Mid-American, I am not moving to taking credit cards as yet as we just do not seem to have the need for it at this point. The Education section is filled with videos and programming and I am always able to take other suggestions. At the delegates’ meeting, perhaps stress asking the question "What do you want to see for Education?" I have posted the changes in officers and Board members. Suggestions appreciated.”

Motion to approve passed.

Ways and Means: Chair Sue Charles reported that the auction Saturday night brought in \$1,475. The auction was unusual in that it was held *during* dinner. Doug Martin and Russ Vernon served as our auctioneers.

Motion to approve passed.

Old Business: Russ Vernon was able to locate the archivist at the Missouri Botanical Garden where the oldest materials of the Congress’ Archives reside. This gentleman indicated that our materials are still there and safe. Other archives are in the possession of the American Orchid Society Archives; newer material is in the possession of Secretary Doris Asher. We need to attempt to get everything in one place, hopefully accessible for our historical research.

New Business:

The Congress donated \$1,000 to the AOS Centennial Celebration Fund; any funds remaining after the April Centennial Celebration will go to the AOS Conservation Endowment.

Russ detailed upcoming amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate meeting just once a year. These proposed amendments will appear in the next issue of The Mid-American.

Because of the wonderful and extra work that the Miami Valley Orchid Society did to facilitate this meeting (lining up the speakers and the caterers among other things), Tim Hueston moved that the Congress give the Society \$300 from the Saturday auction. Motion passed unanimously.

Election: Nominating Committee Chair Doug Hartong presented the election of Barry Jones to take the place of Bill Morrison as the Congress President for 2020 and to serve until the Muncie meeting in 2021.

As there were no additional nominations from the floor, the delegates cast a unanimous vote to accept the election of Barry Jones as presented.

Russ presented the new President with his “hat” – a Santa Claus cap decorated with golf balls.



Chair of the Nominating Committee Doug Hartong moved that all actions taken by the officers and committee members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress since the last Annual Meeting be ratified and confirmed, and that the officers and committee members be commended for their good work. Motion passed.

There being no additional business to come before the Congress, President Barry Jones adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Doris Asher

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MAOC CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The MAOC Executive Committee approved the below proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws which will be presented for voting action by the Delegates at the next MAOC meeting in Muncie, IN, 19-21 March, 2021. In short, these proposed amendments arose out of the need for clarification and adjusting for those years in which only one meeting would occur, authorizes the Awards Committee to adjust accordingly and authorizes electronic committee meetings. There are also some minor language clean-ups.

Text in blue are words to be deleted. Words in red are new words to be added.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

Adopted September 27, 1992 Reprinted September 2001 Revised May 2007 Revised September 2011 Revised October 2012 Revised October 2013 Revised November 2014

ARTICLE I Organization Name

The organization shall be known as The Mid-America Orchid Congress.

ARTICLE II Purpose, Incorporation, and Dissolution of the Organization

The purpose of the Congress is to effect relationships among Orchid Societies of Mid-North America by meetings devoted to the advancement of knowledge and appreciation of orchids.

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II herein. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE III MEMBERS

A. Members of the Congress shall be Orchid Societies that were represented at the business meeting of the 1st Mid-America Orchid Congress held October 24, 1959, and ratified this constitution by the payment of the first year's dues by January 1st, 1960 or subsequently, any Society which applies to the Secretary for membership and is elected as hereinafter provided.

B. New members shall be elected by a majority vote of Congress Delegates at any regular or special meeting.

C. Annual dues shall be established by vote of the Delegates and shall be payable on or before January 1st of each year. No Delegate will be recognized nor vote unless his/her Society's dues are current. Societies shall be dropped from membership upon nonpayment of dues for two (2) consecutive years. All original member Societies (Central Illinois OS, Illinois OS, Kentucky OS, Land of Lincoln OS, Michigan OS, Missouri OS, OS of Greater Kansas City, OS of Middle Tennessee) were allowed to January 1st, 1960 to pay their dues. All new members thereafter accepted are to tender payment of the current year's dues with their application which will be refunded if the Society is not accepted.

D. A member Society shall be considered to be an active member with full voting rights provided that its dues, as set forth under Article XIV are current. A member Society shall be considered to be an inactive member with no voting rights whenever its dues are in arrears.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS OF THE CONGRESS

A. Within each calendar year there shall be an annual meeting of the Congress and it shall be held in a different location each year insofar as is practicable **and approved by the Congress delegates and in accordance with the Annual Committee authorizations.**

B. Member Societies who wish to host the Congress meeting shall address their invitation to the Annual Meeting Committee of the Congress. Neighboring Societies may cooperate in this regard.

C. All phases of the program, entertainment and other activities of the meetings are the responsibility of the host Society or Societies, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Congress.

D. It is expected that each meeting of the Congress shall be self-supporting.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

A. Elected officers are President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President may serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms. Other officers shall serve no more than five consecutive one-year terms.

B. At each annual meeting of Delegates of the Congress, the Nominating Committee shall nominate a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, to hold office until the next annual meeting of the Congress, or until their successors are elected **and they agree to continue to serve.** No member Society shall have in its membership more than two officers of the Congress. A majority of the voting Delegates in attendance shall elect the officers. Other nominations for these offices may be made at the annual meeting of the Delegates by any Delegate, provided the nominee has agreed to the nomination, and has agreed to serve if elected.

ARTICLE VI PRESIDENT

It shall be the duty of the President to preside according to Roberts Rules of Order (Revised) and The Mid-America Constitution and By-Laws, copies of which shall be kept with the books of the Secretary at all meetings of the Congress and Congress Delegates and of the Executive Committee; to see that the Constitution and By-Laws are appropriately applied; to call such meetings as are herein provided to be called; to preside over all affairs of the Congress; and at the annual meeting to make a report. Upon election, the President shall appoint such committees as are designated in Article XII with approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, duties of the President shall be performed by the First Vice-President.

ARTICLE VIII SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, duties of the President shall be performed by the Second Vice-President.

ARTICLE IX SECRETARY

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Congress, and shall keep copies of the same. The Secretary shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Congress and Congress Delegates and of the Executive

Committee. The Secretary shall give notice to each person of his/her election to office. The Secretary shall have general charge of the records of the Congress.

ARTICLE X TREASURER

The fiscal year of the Congress shall be the same as the calendar year (January 1—December 31). The Treasurer shall collect all dues and receive all monies belonging to the Congress and shall disburse them under the direction of the Congress Delegates, or of any committee empowered by the Congress to pay obligations of the Congress. If none is so indicated or so provided, then the Executive Committee will act until such time as there is. The Treasurer shall deposit the funds of the Congress, in the name of the Congress, in such bank or banks as may be designated from time to time by Congress Delegates or by the Executive Committee. Books and accounts shall at all times be open to inspection by authorized representatives of the member Societies and the Auditing Committee. The Treasurer's accounts for the preceding fiscal year shall be audited by the Auditing Committee. The Treasurer's report shall be submitted at each Congress meeting for approval. The Treasurer shall be bonded to The Mid-America Orchid Congress in the amount of not less than \$1,000.00, or in such greater amount as shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The cost of the bond will be borne by the Congress. The Treasurer shall maintain for the Congress its 501(c)3 status, or corresponding section of any future tax code, with the IRS and appropriate state sales tax exemption certification and include this information in the Treasurer's annual report.

ARTICLE XI PAST PRESIDENTS

The immediate Past President shall serve as a voting Delegate at Large and shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE XII EDITOR

The position of Editor of The Mid-American shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee. The Editor will produce and distribute The Mid-American, a regular publication of the Congress. The Editor will work with the Communications Committee in determining editorial policy and acquiring articles for The Mid-American.

ARTICLE XIII CONGRESS DELEGATES

A. Members of active member Societies are encouraged to attend Congress meetings; however, each active member Society may have a maximum of four voting Delegates attending meetings of the Congress. (Officers of the Congress may be Delegates of their respective Societies.) Each voting Delegate must register with the Secretary of the Congress at the Congress business meeting.

B. There shall be a meeting of Congress Delegates at each meeting of the Congress to conduct the business of the Congress. A quorum shall consist of a majority of those Delegates who are properly registered with the Secretary. Others attending the Congress may attend the meeting of the Delegates as guests and speak on matters before the group but may not vote.

C. Under unusual circumstances, special meetings of the Congress Delegates may be held at such time and place as may be selected by the Executive Committee in writing **or electronically** to all member Societies at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting. No business may be transacted at such special meeting except as included in the call of the meeting. A quorum at a special meeting shall be a majority of the Congress Delegates present in person.

D. The Congress Delegates assembled at each meeting of the Congress shall have general charge and direction of the business of the Congress, the care and management of the business of the Congress, the care and management of the funds and other property of the Congress, and they shall consider and pass upon all questions of the appropriation of money to carry out the functions of the Congress.

ARTICLE XIV COMMITTEES

All committees may meet in person at duly called congress meeting, other meetings or electronically, completely or in part, in order to properly conduct their business.

Affiliated Societies Committee There shall be an Affiliated Societies Committee consisting of five (5) or more individuals appointed by the President. This Committee shall:

- (1) Work to strengthen communication and liaison among member Societies and to encourage member Societies to become familiar with the activities of the other Committees of the Congress.
- (2) Plan the program of the Affiliated Societies Breakfast whenever the Congress meets separately from other regional or national organizations.
- (3) Recruit new member Societies and provide such information about the Congress as will encourage formal application for membership in The Mid-America Orchid Congress.
- (4) Acknowledge acceptance of a society as a member of The Mid-America Orchid Congress. Send a copy of the most recent minutes and a copy of the Constitution and ByLaws.

Annual Meeting Committee There shall be an Annual Meeting Committee consisting of three (3) individuals, appointed by the President. This Committee shall be authorized to accept invitations without making recommendations to the Delegates at each meeting concerning sites and dates for Congress meetings. In addition to the responsibilities listed in the Constitution, this Committee provides the following services:
(1) A Committee member works with the host Societies in his/her region, assuring that they are aware of the Congress needs regarding site, meeting rooms, hospitality, banquets, meeting schedule, etc. (2) Works with the Show Schedule Committee in revising the show book.

Auditing Committee There shall be an Auditing Committee consisting of three (3) individuals, appointed by the President. This Committee shall audit the accounts of the Congress and submit a report at each Spring meeting of the Delegates.

Awards Committee There shall be an Awards Committee appointed by the President to assure that trophies and awards donated to The Mid-America Orchid Congress are presented. All donated trophies and awards to The Mid-America Orchid Congress must be pre-approved by the congress delegates at a Business Meeting and be paid for by the donor prior to presentation. The Awards Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and revising as appropriate the list of the names of the various pre-approved awards. The Awards Committee shall provide the Executive Committee a list of those awards proposed to be awarded at the next annual meeting and/or additional meetings in the same calendar year. The Executive Committee shall approve which of the officially pre-approved awards are presented at various meeting of the Congress.

- (1) Prepare a gold plaque for “Orchidist of the Year” and silver plaques for other awards.
- (2) Trophies for the Spring meeting are: 1* The Mid-America Trophy — Most Outstanding Exhibit Staged by an Affiliated Society of The Mid-America Orchid Congress. 2* The Henry C. Holmes Award — Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in show. 3* The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award — Best Specimen Plant in show. 4* The F L Stevenson Award — Best Pleurothallid Alliance Plant in show. 5* The Fox Valley Award — Best Cypripedium Alliance Plant in show. To be awarded to the plant receiving the highest AOS award, or to the best of the Cypripedium classes if no award.
- (3) Trophies for the Fall meeting are: 6* The Mid-America Trophy — Most Outstanding Exhibit Staged by an Affiliated Society of The Mid-America Orchid Congress. 7* The Clifford & Vivian Walters Award — Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in show. 8* In Memory of Raymond McCullough Award — Best Epidendrum/Encyclia in show. 9* The Christine M. Chowning Award – Best Angraecoid species in show. 10*

The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award — Best Specimen Plant in show. (4) Report recipients of silver awards at the Spring and Fall Congress meetings.

Budget Committee There shall be a Budget Committee, consisting of the Treasurer and two (2) individuals, appointed by the President. The Budget Committee shall prepare budgets for the routine operations of the Congress and monitor those budgets to assure the proper handling of the Congress funds. It shall study the long-term financial needs of the Congress, advise the Congress of anticipated needs, and recommend expenditures to achieve the objectives of the Congress. It shall maintain close liaison with the Ways and Means Committee in order to stay advised about Congress income and advise that Committee about financial needs. It shall perform such other financial duties as the Congress may request.

Communications Committee There shall be a Communications Committee, consisting of the Editor and three (3) or more individuals appointed by the President. The Communications Committee shall work with the Editor and the Congress in determining editorial policy of The Mid-American publication, assist in the acquisition of articles for The Mid-American, provide current MAOC activities on the website (www.midamericanorchids.org), and work with the President and the Congress on such other publications as they may request. The Committee shall report to the Congress at each meeting.

Conservation Committee There shall be a Conservation Committee consisting of three (3) or more individuals appointed by the President. This Committee shall be concerned with preserving native orchids in their natural habitats by receiving and evaluating such conservation proposals as may be submitted to the Congress, and by recommending such action on them as may seem to be appropriate. The Committee may also receive and consider requests from qualified institutions to assist them to enlarge their collections of rare or endangered orchids, and/or to naturalize such native orchids in suitable protected areas. The Committee's assistance may take the form of providing informational help, or, in some circumstances, of recommending that the Congress provide limited financial assistance. The Committee should instruct individuals on the benefits of conservation and encourage the conservation of species in personal collections.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee There shall be a Constitution and By-Laws Committee consisting of three (3) **or more** individuals, appointed by the President, which shall make recommendations from time to time to the member Societies concerning changes and/or amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. This Committee provides a parliamentarian for each meeting of the Congress.

Education and Research Committee There shall be an Education and Research Committee consisting of three (3) or more individuals appointed by the President. Its educational function will be served by studying and planning projects which will help Societies and their members to develop a stronger understanding of and interest in all phases of orchidology. The Committee will also act to promote research on the propagation, cultivation, hybridization, and reproduction of orchids by receiving and evaluating proposals from individuals, member Societies, and qualified institutions by whom suggestions for investigations in any of these areas are presented, and for which limited financial aid may be sought. The Committee will advise the Congress about the extent to which such research seems justified and desirable, and request that the Congress provide appropriate financial assistance.

Executive Committee There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the five (5) elected officers of the Congress and the immediate Past President of the Congress. The Executive Committee shall conduct the general business of the Congress and carry out policies and recommendations of the Congress Delegates and may fill any vacancy that may exist in their number to fill out an unexpired term.

Historical Committee There shall be a Historical Committee appointed by the President. The Historical Committee shall work to: (1) Collect the history of the Congress, its affiliated Societies and members. (2) Cooperate with the American Orchid Society's Library/Archives Committee regarding acquisition, use and storage of such material.

Nominating Committee There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) of the most immediate past Presidents of The Mid-America Orchid Congress in attendance with the most immediate past President serving as chair of the Committee **if available**, plus two (2) other at-large members appointed by the President. The Nominating Committee must meet one business meeting prior to the election of officers **or electronically in the time prior** to formalize its nominations.

Orchidist of the Year Committee There shall be an Orchidist of the Year Committee consisting of three (3) or more individuals appointed by the President. This award is given for efforts expended in support of The Mid-America Orchid Congress. **and the The** Orchidist of the Year Committee shall: (1) Determine whether or not an award shall be given. (2) Maintain secrecy about the award until this Committee presents the award at the annual meeting of the Congress. (3) Request the Awards Committee Chair to have the trophy engraved. (4) Ask The Mid-American Editor to publish an article **provided by the committee** about the recipient(s).

Show Schedule Committee There shall be a Show Schedule Committee consisting of three (3) or more individuals appointed by the President. The Show Schedule Committee shall: (1) Periodically revise and update the show book with the cooperation of the Annual Meeting Committee. (2) Distribute show tags and show schedule. (3) Gather and evaluate data regarding the effective use of the show book and judging schedule at shows. (4) Urge affiliated societies to use the show schedule as printed by the Congress with minor and appropriate additions and/or deletions as deemed necessary.

Technology Committee There shall be a Technology Committee, consisting of the MAOC Webmaster and two (2) or more individuals appointed by the President. Its function shall be to maintain and upgrade the MAOC website, prepare and maintain an electronic orchid registration program and schedules for MAOC meetings, and work with the President and the Congress on such other electronic and technological issues as requested. The Committee shall report to the Congress at each meeting.

Ways and Means Committee There shall be a Ways and Means Committee, consisting of three (3) or more individuals appointed by the President. Its function shall be to raise funds for the routine operations and special projects of the Congress. It shall assist the Budget Committee in assessing the feasibility of large projects and shall report on its progress at each meeting of the Congress.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Congress by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Delegates in attendance and voting, but no alterations of amendments shall be adopted unless the substance and effect of the proposed alterations or amendments shall have been submitted to the member Societies at least sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting of the Delegates at which the alterations or amendments are to be submitted for vote.



F L Stevenson Award for Best Pleurothallis awarded to *Masd.* Marinrod 'Marsh Hollow' HCC/AOS owned by New Vision Orchids, Yorktown, IN.
The Miami Valley Orchid Society also awarded it their **Al May Pleurothallis Award.**



Fox Valley Award for Best Cypripedium Alliance Plant - awarded to the plant receiving the highest AOS Award at the MAOC, or if no award, then to the best of the Cypripedium class. *Paph.* Magical Contrasts 'OK Two' AM OF 86 points, owned by Stephen Benjamin, Bardstown, KY.



Henry C. Holmes Award for Best Oncidium Alliance Plant awarded to *Brs.* Steve Male 'John's Gift' AM/AOS owned by New Vision Orchids, Yorktown, IN.



Phrag. QF Walter Sheeren 'Little Michele' awarded an AM of 82 points, owned by Steve Helbling, Cincinnati, OH.
The Miami Valley Orchid Society also awarded it their **Don Walklet Cypripedium Award.**



The Miami Valley Orchid Society awarded its **Pat June Award for Miscellaneous Species** to *Bulb. spiesii*, owned by Oakwood Orchids.



Max. diceoides 'River Valley' awarded a CBR, owned by Eric Sauer, Dayton, OH.



The Miami Valley Orchid Society awarded its **Jim Bailey Cattleya Alliance Award** to *C. intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crownfox' owned by Steve Helbling, Cincinnati, OH.



The Miami Valley Orchid Society awarded its **Tom Cox Phalaenopsis Award** to *Phal. Sogo Perfume* x *Caribbean Sunset* owned by Jan Yates, Cincinnati, OH.



Paph. hermanii 'Oakwood Shocked' awarded an HCC of 75 points, owned by Jim France of Oakwood Orchids, Dayton, OH.



Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for Best Specimen Plant awarded to *C. trianae* 'Highjack' AM/AOS owned by Stephen Benjamin, Bardstown, KY.



Mid-America Trophy for **Most Outstanding Exhibit by an Affiliated Society** awarded to the Miami Valley Orchid Society. It also received the **AOS Show Trophy** and an 87-point Silver Certificate.

Affiliated Society Member Article

The Mid-American would like to publish article by society members of any Affiliated Society. Please submit articles to Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com.

Our first author is Jun Lao who is a member of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society.

North Texas Master Naturalist Program: *Hexalectris* Orchids - Jun Lao, with Charles Hess and Stephanie Varnum

In 2018, I drove up to the Cleveland area to attend the Mid-America Orchid Congress and stopped by one of the exhibitors who had prints of orchids he had painted. The gentleman's name was Charles Hess, and we struck up a conversation on native orchids, exchanged e-mails, and I later found out that he was in the North Texas Orchid Society, and led their Conservation Committee. That summer, I saw an article on seeing *Hexalectris* Coral Root orchids and thought that would be interesting to see as the flowers were quite beautiful.

Early this year, I got in touch with Charles, and just casually asked if he knew of locations in Texas where you could see native orchids, as I might be visiting my sister in the Houston area. He got me in touch with Stephanie Varnum, who headed the North Texas Master Naturalist *Hexalectris* Program in the Dallas area. Stephanie gave me a rough schedule of when the various species would be blooming, and soon, Charles and Stephanie invited me to join them in their surveys - every Tuesday and Thursday from May to end-July.

The location in the Dallas area where they do the surveys yearly is quite interesting. It is located in a suburb of the city of Dallas, and surrounded by homes, and just a bit to the east, by factories. It is an Audubon preserve, with trails, and which are heavily used by people hiking or running, or families with small kids. Most people follow the trail, as there are signs around to not go off-trail as there are rattlesnakes in the area (Texas has these signs in the parking lot of rest stops asking people to be careful approaching or opening garbage bins as there might be snakes in the shadow or inside, escaping the heat).

I was with Canadian naturalist and amazing botanical photographer John Lamey, three weeks back, when he brought me around to see the native orchids and rare plants of the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario. I mentioned to John then that I had arranged to join the North Texas Master Naturalists' *Hexalectris* Survey, which started in 2006. The date I was going was past for the Crested Coralroot (*Hexalectris spicata* - which we have in Adams County in Ohio), but was blooming season for four more *Hexalectris* species - *H. arizonica*, *H. grandiflora*, *H. nitida*, and *H. warnockii*. Imagine, this one nature preserve having five *Hexalectris* species! This was one amazing place.

I proposed a date of first week of July (week of July 4th), for a visit to my sister, and this was also the start of prime time for the *Hexalectris* blooms.

Charles and Stephanie said that was a prime time to go and see their Texan orchids. John Lamey said he was on his way up to Manitoba, then to Alberta, and then on to the Olympic Peninsula for botanizing. He said that he could detour to Texas, as these *Hexalectris* orchids would be quite new for him, too.



Patch of Snowy Orchids in prime blooming condition. This was in a fen with clear flowing water, with lots of yellow pitcher plants.

On the morning of July 1, I drove a rental car from Houston to Big Thicket Nature Preserve, a large collection of areas north of Beaumont, Texas, to walk the trails of the Sundew Trail and the Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve, which, in a small area near a lake, embodied a lot of the rare plants scattered in the rest of Big Thicket.

According to their website, the Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve has many rare and endangered species of native plants, including seven species of orchids, four of the five types of carnivorous plants native to North America, and ten species of ferns. Through the help of Pauline Singleton, who is the main contact, and who gave me directions of where to find the Snowy Orchid (*Platanthera nivea* - which we don't have in Ohio), I was able to see and photograph the Snowy Orchid, which was a little past peak in the boggy area next to the lake, but in a separate spot on the boardwalk further down the trail, they were in prime blooming condition.

This was an amazing place, with lots of plants that were new to me. The wet area where the Snowy Orchids were, also had a crayfish visible in the clear water.

I was warned that the Grass Pink Orchids (*Calopogon tuberosus*) would be done blooming by then. However, a short walk around the fen revealed a vivid purple bloom unfurling - a Grass Pink Orchid that did not receive the memo (see above right).



Grass Pink Orchid opening up.



Snowy Orchid with a green spider, waiting for an unwary pollinator to pass by.

From here, it was a 4-hour drive to the Dallas area, through tropical downpours that felt like buckets of water were being unleashed from the sky. Visibility was so low and the sky so dark, that you could only see the vehicle immediately ahead of you, and this went on for close to an hour of that drive.

The following morning, I met up with Stephanie, Charles, and the rest of the Texas Master Naturalists near the trailhead of Cedar Ridge Nature Preserve.

Also, there was John Lamey, who was telling the naturalists about his many botanizing trips and showing them pictures of flowers. John had arrived that Sunday, after driving through Colorado on his way south to Texas. He had already walked some of the trails that afternoon, but rested on Monday, when the preserve was closed.

Stephanie distributed the workload and broke us into two teams, and we went off-trail along the slopes to spot, record, and tag the *Hexalectris* orchids. Here, they marked the orchids with a piece of branch and neon

orange tape, with the date, the designation (species and number), and the height of the flower spike. Stephanie had the logbook where she noted down each find.

The front portion of the trails yielded a number of *H. nitida* and *H. warnockii* in various stages of bloom. What was exciting was that there was a patch of about 6 white *H. warnockii* - alba blooming spikes. Stephanie said that there was another patch somewhere else in the preserve.

After some time photographing plants in the area, Charles was asked to bring us to see the *H. arizonica*, so that we could see all three types of blooming *Hexalectris* orchids (Unfortunately, *H. grandiflora* had not bloomed for a few years in the Preserve, when they rerouted the trail to better protect the orchid, but in so doing, the habitat changed enough for the orchid to remain dormant).



Arizona Crested Coral Root
(*Hexalectris arizonica*)



Glass Mountain Coral Root
(*Hexalectris nitida*)



Texas Purple Spike (*Hexalectris warnockii*)

The three species of *Hexalectris* orchids blooming in the Dallas area nature preserve.



Alba form of the Texas Purple Spike (*Hexalectris warnockii*).

The hardest to spot was the Glass Mountain Coral Root (*Hexalectris nitida*). The spike was often thin and short and was characterized by bends in the spike where the blooms were. It tended to be self-pollinating, so most of the blooms were closed. This is an orchid that can be found in Texas and Mexico and believed to already be extirpated in New Mexico.

Very abundant this year was the Texas Purple Spike (*Hexalectris warnockii*), a very beautiful orchid, if you can but see up, as the blooms tended to face down. Every so often, given the number of blooming plants, were a few that did not have “shy” flowers, with flowers better positioned for pictures (see above, right). The beauty of the flowers really comes into view when you see the contrast between the petals and sepals and the yellow stripes on the lip, which likely direct the pollinator further in. The Texas Purple Spike is considered an imperiled species, being found only in Texas and Arizona.



Texas Purple Spike, showing the contrasting colors and the vivid yellow “stripes” on the lip, which can go from three (left) to one (right).

While the two *Hexalectris* orchids tended to be short in stature, the same was not true for the Arizona Crested Coral Root (*Hexalectris arizonica*). The spikes were quite thick in diameter and very robust. Most of the spikes had flowers that were somewhat closed - they tended to be self-pollinating as well, but every now and then, there would be an open flower, and they resemble the Crested Coral Root (*Hexalectris spicata*).

In fact, they were considered a variety of the Crested Coral Root but differs in their blooming time (*H. spicata* blooms earlier in May in this area) and lacks a rostellum in the flower. The Arizona Crested Coral Root is considered quite rare, and usually found as scattered individuals, but in the preserve, you could see small colonies of them, even one that formed a fairy’s ring. It was quite gratifying to see their tall, sturdy spikes, and seeing them in small groups (below).



The *Hexalectris* orchids in this area in Dallas were doing very well and seemed to be having a banner year. The theory is that the area had a wet year last year, and the orchids tapped into fungi that tapped the roots of the trees, and thus they had enough nutrients to send up a lot of flowers.

By the end of July, Stephanie said it was a record year, with 1,032 *Hexalectris* orchids; *H. arizonica* - 33; *H. nitida* - 343; *H. spicata* - 43; *H. warnockii* - 613. The greatest numbers prior to this year were in 2018 with 640, and 2017 with 518. The data sheets were sent to Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden. It was indeed a great experience being part of the survey (and helping spot a number of untagged plants) on a great year for these orchids