



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

Fall 2021

<http://www.midamericanorchids.org>

Table of Contents			
Letter from the President	page 1	Conservation	page 12
Ohio Valley Orchid Fest August 27-29	page 2	Annual Business Meeting and Minutes	page 14
Orchidist of the Year	page 10	Society Newsletter Article - <i>Into the Wild</i>	
From the Archives	page 10	by Ken Mettler, Central Ohio Orchid Society	Page 20
Affiliated Society Fall Update	page 11	Officers and Committee Chairs	page 22
Show Schedule	page 11	Affiliated Societies Websites.	page 22
Awards Committee	page 12		

From the President!

Hello all, Happy Fall and Happy Holiday Season.

As I take the reins of this office, I am awed by the responsibility but also the nature of our organization being able to survive what history will surely mark as one of the most troublesome of times. What we have faced as societies and groups, schools, and families has to be the most difficult most of us have ever seen or will ever likely see again.

What has it taught us?

1. We are resilient. We can stand up to devastating loss and be better.
2. We are strong. We can come back as a nation, as a society, as a family, stronger than ever.
3. We need each other. If we have learned anything, it is that we need others around us to get through tough times.
4. We need focus. We need to channel our energies into how to make us better. We need to focus on what is important to us as individuals, families and a society.

Some of us hunkered down and never left the house. Some of us volunteered at various places. Some sought strength in resolving not to let this keep us down. We found ways to communicate and strengthen our commitments to each other. The MAOC is no different. What is it that keeps us together? All of the above.

This is an association of resilient people who make up resilient societies. We have found new ways to work, albeit not necessarily face to face. We have become even stronger, finding ways to work together. We need each other as we know. And we need to focus on ways we can be more responsive to our members. That is what we as the officers and Board of the MAOC will focus on.

We can be strong together. Volunteer a couple hours a month on a committee. Channel your energy into finding ways to make us all successful. Send us an email with your name and email address or phone, and what your interests are. We need help with our webpage, with planning meetings, with a whole host of ideas that we cannot do alone!!

Sincerely, Cheryl Erins.



Cheryl with AOS President Bob Fuchs



2021 Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

The last two years has caused most of not all orchid societies to figure out new ways of getting things done and creating events in new ways. The Greater Cincinnati and Miami Valley Orchid Societies in Southwest Ohio were no different. A group of members from each society got together to figure out a way to bring a new and fun event to the Midwest that could hopefully grow into a large international orchid event like those found in Florida or California. Southwestern Ohio is a unique location that has a large population of orchid growers within a few hours' drive along with a good population in Cincinnati and Dayton. Planning began in early 2020 for an event but COVID had different plans and the idea was shelved until early Spring of 2021. Along with the Mid America Orchid Congress, which was also looking for a location for its annual meeting, the idea of the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest was hatched.

The first challenge was a location. The Miami Valley Orchid Society had recently relocated its home base to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Kettering Ohio which has a large 10-acre campus and facility that could be utilized for the event. The location also allowed for growth over time and was easily accessible from the highway and close to a few hotels. A fall weekend in August was picked and planning got underway. Vendors were contacted and two keynote speakers including Bob Fuchs and Brenda Oviatt were lined up to deliver talks for the weekend. With the risk of COVID still in place, it was decided to do as much of the show outside as possible with the vendors located under two large tents and the show and speakers inside. As plans came together, the church decided to be a full partner in the event moving its annual picnic to the same weekend and celebrating the event. This created the idea to make the Orchid Festival more like a festival with the inclusion of several food trucks providing



a wide selection of food choices for the weekend. The addition of family fun activities that occurred all weekend and peaked with the addition of blow-up slides and bounce houses, a dunk tank and traditional picnic games such as tug of war and pie eating contests help bring an even more unique and fun atmosphere to the weekend.

The show itself featured over 150 plants in bloom and were arranged in a single large display with

plants organized by class. This reduced the amount of effort for set up as well as judging on Saturday morning further reducing COVID risk to participants. This arrangement also allowed participants who had longer travel times to pull plants early and head home. Saturday morning arrived along with about 20 AOS judges and student judges who handed out the ribbons and then granted 4 plants with AOS awards (see below). Judges took a break between ribbon and AOS judging for a trip out to a waiting food truck that prepared custom omelets and amazing breakfast sandwiches. Judging was completed before lunch and allowed the judges to enjoy the rest of the day to socialize, hear a great talk by Bob Fuchs and add a few plants to their collections from one of 10 vendors attending the show.



Vendors opened to guests at a preview party Friday night and offered a wide selection of plants and orchid related items all weekend. The hot temperatures were endured with fans, ice cold water and a fun atmosphere. The MAOC hosted two live auctions on Saturday and a weekend long silent auction that raised funds to help cover costs for the show and MAOC. Items included orchid plants, artwork, homemade baclava made by one of the church members and books including one donated by Cheryl Erins from the Last World Orchid Congress which was given away through a raffle.

Sunday morning started with a single worship service and a presentation by event co-chair Eric Sauer on orchids given to the congregation

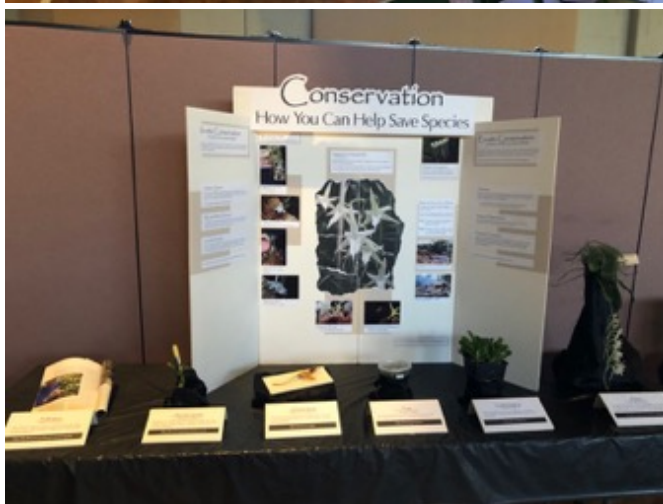
and a tour of the orchid show. More food trucks arrived along with many neighbors of the church to enjoy a free food truck lunch paid for by the church to all attendees. Choices included wood fired pizza, Caribbean cuisine, amazing sandwiches, specialty teas and lemonade and create your own snow cones. Brenda Oviatt presented a great talk on *Angraecoids* and their conservation which was also live streamed to participating Societies of the MAOC as was Bob Fuch's talk on Saturday.

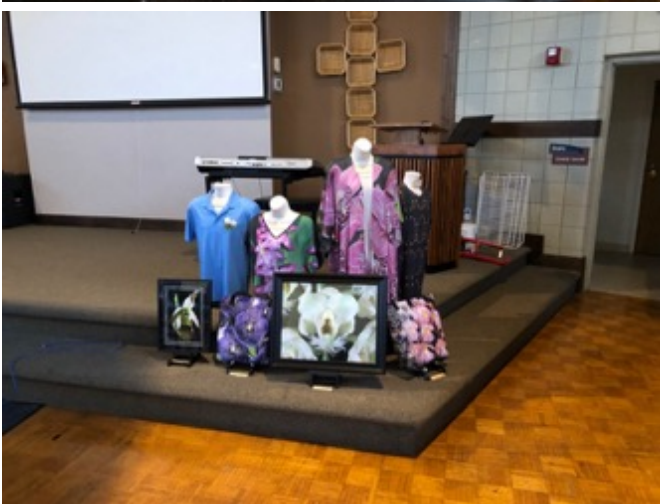


Sunday created a true festival experience and allowed orchid growers to get to know congregation members and begin to build new friendships that will grow next year.

Plans are already underway for the second annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest- Keep August 26-28, 2022, open on your calendar and plan to join in the fun next year! - Eric Sauer

More Photos from the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest!





The following awards were given at the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest:

Clifford and Vivian Walters Award

Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in show

Tolumnia Jaiho Rose

Edgar Stehli

Windswept in Time Orchids



In Memory of Raymond McCullough Award

Best Epidendrum/Encyclia in show

Prosthechea cochleata

Pam Everett



Henry C. and Lois Holmes Award

Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in show

Lopharis microchilla

Eric Sauer

River Valley Orchids



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.

Mexipedium xerophyticum 'Pixie Slippers'

Marilyn LeDoux

Windy Hill Gardens



The Christine M. Chowning Award

Best Angraecoid species in show

Aerangis articulata

Brenda Oviatt

Botanica Ltd



The F L Stevenson Award

Best Pleurothallid Alliance Plant in show

Restrepia trichoglossa

Edgar Stehli

Windswept in Time Orchids



The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award

Best Specimen Plant in show

Mexipedium xerophyticum 'Pixie Slippers'

Marilyn LeDoux

Windy Hill Gardens



Ohio Valley Orchid Fest AOS awards

Photos by Rick Noel



Cattleya Michelle's Hugh Bid 'Scot Mib'. HCC Roger Miller



Paph Alexej 'Golden Dragon' AM Orchid Inn



Mexipedium xerophyticum 'Pixie Slippers' AM. Marilyn LeDoux



Clowesetum Hybrid. *Clowesia russelianum* x
Ctsm tigrinum 'Cheryl's Joy'. HCC Cheryl Erins

Orchidist of the Year

This award is given for efforts expended in support of The Mid-America Orchid Congress. The award was presented at the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest. It was awarded to Jeanne Rhinehart. She is chairman of the Communications Committee and is a member of MAOC Affiliated Societies – Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society, Miami Valley Orchid Society, and Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society.

She was given this award for her following contributions to MAOC: She has chaired or been a member of the Communications Committee since 2008. Her contributions to Mid-America really took off after we voted to go to just one meeting per year. Her help with our Zoom meetings during this long, long pandemic has been invaluable. She has been like a gadfly pushing us to do more and do better. She has worked very effectively with the Affiliated Societies Committee and has been instrumental in our very valuable online sessions with our affiliated societies – and again with Eric Sauer in beginning work on strategic planning. I am not sure where Mid-America would be today without her constant hard work. She has greatly expanded *The Mid-American* and has worked and worked and worked on cleaning up our email database, a constant challenge.

She is our MVP! – Doris Asher



Thank You MAOC from Jeanne Rhinehart.

I want to thank all Mid-America Orchid Congress for this honor. I have enjoyed all that Mid-America has offered me in learning opportunities and the chance to visit many of the cities represented by the various MAOC affiliated societies through their Congress meetings throughout the years. This has allowed me to form wonderful friendships with people from around the country as well as visiting various attractions in the cities visited, not to forget the great orchid vendors and speakers from around the country and world. It also has a special place in my heart because I met my husband over a Guinness at a Mid-American Congress in Nashville, and we got to know each other while planning the first of the Greater Cincinnati and Miami Valley MAOC Congress meeting.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Doris Asher, August 8, 2021

RAY McCULLOUGH

Serving from 1982-1983, Raymond McCullough was the 13th President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress. During his administration, MAOC met in Memphis (March 1982), Peoria (November 1982), Columbus (April 1983), and Elyria, OH (October 1983). His presidential “hat” was the same pink, curly wig that Henry Holmes had worn (the start of this tradition). The Congress named him its Orchidist of the Year for 1994. For approximately 20 years, the Congress has offered the In Memory of Raymond McCullough Award for the best epidendrum/encyclia in the show.

Born 9/13/1912, Ray died 6/24/1996 while mowing his lawn in Livonia, MI.

A charter member of the Michigan Orchid Society, he served as that Society's President for 1956 and 1957. They named him their Orchidist of the Year in 1977. When he died, the Michigan Orchid Society set up the Raymond McCullough Award, designed by MOS member Karen Muir in conjunction with Pewabic Pottery in Detroit. Pewabic Pottery glazed and fired the original trophy design of an *Encyclia cochleata* (now called *Prosthechea cochleata*).

Ray's work as a Chief Engineer of the Ford Motor Company had him traveling worldwide, giving him the opportunity to collect orchids; he had an extensive species collection of orchids at the time of his death.

He joined the American Orchid Society in 1947 and became an AOS judge. He served as AOS President from 1976-1978. The Society gave him its Gold Medal of Achievement in 1985. For many years he drove the 10-hour trip from Livonia to St Louis to attend monthly judging sessions in the St. Louis Judging Center. Eventually, the Great Lakes Judging Center was established and met in Ann Arbor. Ray served five years as its Chair and remained an extremely active judge in that Center until his death.

A long obituary written by Mid-America celebrity Lois Holmes appears on pages 38-39 in the October 1996 issue of *Orchids* magazine.

Affiliated Societies Fall Update

On October 3rd the MAOC affiliated societies met by zoom to view a presentation by our own Eric Sauer. He graciously offered to show all interested societies a preview of how to use the excel orchid registration program. The program has been used at least four times recently at shows that I am aware of. We should plan a meeting with societies that have used the program and get some feedback before it is put on the website. I know we at NFOS encountered a few things and with a quick call to Eric we were able to resolve it. The programs' ability to accept copy and paste is a huge time saver for your registrar and puts the accuracy on the individual registering their plants and exhibit. The Dendrobium cheat sheet was helpful when assisting members with choosing the correct class. One thing that is clear is that some members are reluctant to try the computer version of orchid registration. Look for our next virtual meeting in February 2021. Enjoy the Holiday Season.

Donna Lipowicz Chair MAOC Affiliated Societies Committee

Show Schedule

Orchid shows! We missed them for most of two years. Now we are staging them again in many areas. They are sometimes smaller, sometimes held in different places and with different social rules in place. The important fact is that we are again able to show the flowers we love.

Last year, in July, while no one was paying attention, MAOC issued a new Show Schedule. You should be using it for any shows you are holding now. This show schedule changes ALL the class numbers. We've eliminated most of the 'a' designations, changed the sequence in some groups, and added a whole bunch of new classes in *Pleurothallis* and *Dendrobium*.

Like anything new, we don't know how well it will work for your orchid society show. If we need to change a class designation or move something in or out of a class, we need you to tell us. The way to do this is by first sending us a list of how many plants are in each class. This will tell us if we need to add a class or divide a class to better distribute ribbons to worthy flowers. Then, if your exhibitors have any comments or suggestions, please let us know that, too.

The Show Schedule is a document for you to use to make it easier for your exhibitors to enter their plants and get ribbons on the good ones. It should be making ribbon judging easier for the people who ribbon judge and clerk at shows. We can only make it work for you if we know what is happening at registration at your shows.

We can add classes if we find that there are lots of one kind of plant being grown and shown that is not singled out in the schedule. If your registrar and exhibitors would like to have a change made, let us know.

Please send a list of the number of entries in each class. This can be a copy of the show schedule with the numbers penciled in, or a spreadsheet with the information. It doesn't have to be formal, just accurate.

Please also send a list of genera in classes 109 & 110, the miscellaneous classes. This is how we determine if any of those plants are ready for their own class, based on the number of entries across the Mid-America region.

Thank you. We really appreciate it when we hear from you.

Lois Cinert

Tom Harper

Nile Dusdieker

Nathan Bell

Mid-America Orchid Congress Awards

The following awards are available for any MAOC meeting:

The Mid-America Trophy — Most Outstanding Exhibit Staged by an Affiliated Society

The Henry C. and Lois Holmes Award — Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in show.

The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award — Best Specimen Plant in show.

The F L Stevenson Award — Best Pleurothallid Alliance Plant in show.

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.

The Mid-America Trophy — Most Outstanding Exhibit Staged by an Affiliated Society

The Clifford & Vivian Walters Award — Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in show.

In Memory of Raymond McCullough Award — Best Epidendrum/Encyclia in show.

The Christine M. Chowning Award — Best Angraecoid species in show.

The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award — Best Specimen Plant in show.

Conservation

Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society Grant Update

Janice Yates

Ten *Cypripedium parviflorum* v. *pubescens* seedlings, purchased by the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society with a 2021 MAOC Conservation grant, now reside in Hintz Hollow, restored to a habitat where they once grew on a family farm. Hintz Hollow, in the Ohio Hocking Hills area, was formerly the Hintz family farm and is now a preserve of the Ohio Appalachia Alliance – it contains a forested box canyon, spectacular rock cliffs and one of the largest stands of Ohio's threatened native *Rhododendron maximum* or Great Rhododendron.

Guided by Sue Hintz Clay who identified areas where she remembers the orchids growing when she was a



Ken Mettler, with Sue Hintz Clay, on a hillside topped by stands of Ohio's Great Rhododendron, a threatened native species.

child, NOPEs members Ken Mettler and Jan Yates replanted three patches in mesic forest, dominated by oaks. One area was especially satisfying to restore because some of the *cyripediums* which once grew there were poached years ago. The replanting process itself is simple, find an appropriate site where there is little competing vegetation, clear the leaf litter in layers (it will be replaced in reverse order), scrape the ground to loosen the soil and place the seedlings about 12 inches apart.



Planting the *cyripedium* seedlings; they were refrigerated until they could be planted. The bare ground has enough space for three seedlings.



Securing the cage with tent stakes; relatively effective deer-proofing.

Once the seedlings are placed about 12 inches apart, they are marked with stakes and covered lightly with the loosened dirt, decaying leaf mold and then dry leaves in that order. The planting area is then securely caged to protect the orchids from deer predation and flagged. NOPEs members will return to these sites next spring, to check on the seedlings, monitor the light level as the forest leaves out and remove any woody invasives.

NOPEs, with permission from the Ohio Appalachia Alliance and an earlier MAOC grant, has restored the Large Yellow Ladies' Slipper in one other preserve, Mercer Woods, where it historically grew. These patches are small, 3-4 plants apiece, but of the Mercer Woods orchids, nine seedlings

Orchid Conservation Alliance

Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.

Dacrydium gigas (S.), *D. trigonopetalum* (K) *Dacrydium immanis* (S.), *Lepanthes excelsa* (K)
Dacrydium Reserve, Ecuador *La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia*

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see Orchids in the Wild®, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: www.orchidconservationalliance.org

were planted last year, all nine grew and one even flowered this year. NOPES is striving for a similar outcome for the Hintz Hollow cyps.

Annual Business Meeting

As part of the MAOC Annual Business Meeting the incoming president is presented with a hat to wear whenever they are presiding over MAOC meetings. Incoming President Cheryl Erins in her new addition is at right. The picture was screen shot over Zoom and is the best we could do.



(DRAFT)

Minutes of the Fall Business Meeting Via Zoom November 3, 2021

President Barry Jones called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:07 p.m. with the following societies present: Alabama Orchid Society, Ann Arbor Orchid Society, Atlanta Orchid Society, Batavia Orchid Society, Central Indiana Orchid Society, Central Iowa Orchid Society, Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society, Greater Lansing Orchid Society, Greater Omaha Orchid Society, Greater Pensacola Orchid Society, Gulf Coast Orchid Society, Huntsville Orchid Society, Illinois Orchid Society, Memphis Orchid Society, Miami Valley Orchid Society, Michigan Orchid Society, Mobile Area Orchid Society, Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society (NOPES), Niagara Frontier Orchid Society, Northeast Alabama Orchid Society, Northland Orchid Society, Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee, Orchid Society of Minnesota, Peoria Orchid Society, Smoky Mountain Orchid Society, South Metro Orchid Society, Three Rivers Orchid Society, Windsor Orchid Society, and Wisconsin Orchid Society.

The following societies were not represented: Blue Grass Orchid Society, Central Missouri Orchid Society, Central Ohio Orchid Society, Central Ontario Orchid Society, Eastern Iowa Orchid Society, Essex County Orchid Society, Grand Valley Orchid Society, Greater Akron Orchid Society, Greater Cleveland Orchid Society, Greater Toledo Orchid Society, Illowa Orchid Society, Kentucky Orchid Society, London Orchid Society, Mansfield Orchid Society

Michiana Orchid Society, Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society, Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society, Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI, Orchid Society of Greater St Louis, Orchid Society of the Ozarks, Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Prairie State Orchid Society, Saginaw Valley Orchid Society, South Mississippi Orchid Society, Springfield Orchid Society, and West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio.

Approval of Minutes: The Congress approved the minutes from the Business Meeting held via Zoom, March 21, 2021, as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Treasurer Dana White, there was no Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports –

Affiliated Societies: Chair Donna Lipowicz presented the following report:

“It has been a learning curve for everyone over the past two years. Thankfully, MAOC has remained in touch with our Affiliated Societies through technology. I want to acknowledge Jeanne Rhinehart and the Communications Committee for their superior work keeping us connected and producing a really great newsletter, The Mid-American. Congratulations! job well done.

The Affiliated Societies have met three times in 2021 -- in February, June, and again on October 3rd at 7 pm. In February we had a record turn out with several Canadian Societies in attendance. This meeting resulted in a MAOC Facebook page being created, copies of Excel files listing individual societies contact info emailed to attendees. We promoted the March 20th event at Ball State with tour of Orchid Species Collection. Societies were informed that an Excel orchid registration program was going to be available for their use. There was a request for a Dendrobium cheat sheet to assist in registering plants into the expanded MAOC Show Schedule class list; such a list is now available on the MAOC website for societies to use. We encouraged societies to go on the MAOC website to look at the calendar of events.

In June we promoted the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest scheduled for August 27-29 in Dayton Ohio, hosted by MVOS & GCOS, with MAOC joining in with our in-person auction activities. I invited by email eight orchid societies in Pennsylvania, along with three from New York who are not members of MAOC, but two individuals from Genesee Region OS from Rochester NY did join in and they ended up attending OVOF as AOS judges from Toronto JC. We hope they join MAOC. Next year we will meet in May instead of June hoping for better attendance. The Excel orchid registration program was explained in more detail and will be presented at the October AS zoom meeting. In the meantime, Eric Sauer has graciously offered to assist societies with the program and on August 3rd he met with the Alabama Orchid Society in preparation for their show in September -- we look forward to their report on their show.

OVOF also used the program to register orchids for the festival’s bench show. Some interesting data from OVOF reveals that twenty-eight orchid societies were represented at OVOF from eleven different states, and approximately twenty five people attended the speakers by zooming in. Thanks to Eric for being extra helpful assisting us with this new tool.

On October 3rd, MAOC Affiliated Societies met by Zoom and learned about the Excel orchid registration program from Eric Sauer. It seems to be pretty straight forward, especially the copy & paste part. Registrars can really appreciate that piece. Questions were sent to Eric using the chat section, and Jeanne Rhinehart has recorded it for future reference.”

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Annual Meeting: Chair Eric Sauer reported that the 2020 Annual Meeting was held in Dayton, OH, at the Miami Valley Orchid Society Spring Show in conjunction with the Congress on February 16, 2020. The 2021 Annual Meeting was held November 3, 2021, via an online Zoom meeting. There are currently no plans for a spring meeting in 2022, but the fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest, August 26-28, 2022, in Dayton.

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

AOS Liaison: Doris Asher presented the following report: “Since I last reported to you at our meeting in Dayton, OH, on February 16, 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic took over our lives including our orchid activities! Unfortunately, I have only the personnel actions that the Judging Committee took at their online meeting this past March 4, 2021, to report to you at this time. I apologize for the omissions.

Mid-America judges **promoted from Certified Judge, Associate to Certified Judge, Accredited:**

Helen Blythe-Hart (Atlanta)

Sandra Dixon (Great Lakes)

One Mid-America person **accepted as Student Judge:** Catherine Dunn (Toronto)

One Mid-America judge requested change in status **to Senior Judge:** Jay Norris (Accredited) (Toronto)

These Mid-America judges were granted **leaves of absence:**

Elizabeth McAlpine (Associate) (Toronto) (1/1/21-7/1/21)

Kristen Uthus (Student) (Great Lakes) (1/1/21-12/31/21)

This Mid-America judge **Transferred:** Bill Porter (Senior) from Cincinnati to Great Lakes

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

The biggest news item is the AOS Centennial Celebration, scheduled for April 6-10, 2022, at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, FL.

President Bob Fuchs gave quite a tribute to our Ohio Valley Orchid Fest in his “President’s Message” appearing in the October issue of Orchids. Bob attended the event as a featured speaker and seemed to enjoy himself immensely.

On August 1st, the Society launched its “Orchid Marketplace” – everything you need to grow and care for your orchids in one convenient location – AOS members enjoy a discount on their purchases.

The AOS continues to do great work on membership -- members number approximately 10,600 at the present time and have been consistently above 10,000 for quite a long time.

The Society is putting together its slate of officers and Board members – the Nominations Committee will develop a slate for all six officers and four trustees – the election takes place in early 2022.

For several months now, the AOS has been actively recruiting possible AOS judges – I am told this endeavor has resulted in quite a number of potential judging personnel.

The next AOS Members’ Meeting will be in Miami, April 6 – 10, 2022, in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration. Sadly, this is the third date, the previous two having been postponed due to ongoing Covid-19 concerns. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend.”

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Audit Committee: in the absence of the Chair, there was no report

Awards Committee: Before Chair Anna Morrison logged in to the meeting, various people reported on her new approach to handling our awards – she presents the sponsoring society with a set of photocopies of the MAOC awards. When the judges choose the winning entry, Anna sends the winner’s name and address to the company which makes our trophies. They, in turn, ship the trophy to the winner. After Anna joined the meeting, she indicated she would continue this procedure.

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Budget: Chair Janice Yates gave the following budget for 2022:

Income

Auctions	\$ 2,000.00
Donations	500.00
Investment Income	0.00

Shows	
Hosted	0.00
In-Conjunction	4,000.00
Show Tags	150.00
Society Dues	<u>1,200.00</u>
	\$ 7,850.00

Expenses

Bank Charges	\$ 25.00
Conservation Grants	2,400.00
Conservation Speaker	750.00 *Endowed Fund
Education Grants	0.00
Filing Fee State of OH	50.00
Judging Center Support	900.00
Liability insurance	550.00
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker (Limits \$750/\$1,500)	750.00 *Endowed Fund
Newsletter	100.00
Officer Expenses	100.00
Shows:	
Hosted	0.00
In-Conjunction	4,000.00
Tags	50.00
Trophies (All but one endowed)	<u>550.00</u> *Endowed Fund
	\$ 10,225.00

This budget assumes one hosted and one in-conjunction show/event in 2022. There are societies interested in hosting a Mid-America Orchid Congress, but the impact of Covid-19 makes it difficult to predict when the Annual Meeting Committee will actually receive an invitation.

The in-conjunction shows are designed to break even; income being registrations and food prepayments and expenses being food payment to vendors and other show expenses. Both are subject to change based on actual event planning.

On the Expense side, some expenses are paid with endowed funds which the MAOC has in hand. Prior to the Bylaws being amended, trophies and speakers were designated for spring and fall Congresses. The amended Bylaws now require the Awards Committee to give the Executive Committee a list of awards proposed to be awarded at the next annual meeting and/or additional meetings in the same calendar year. The Executive Committee then approves which awards are presented. The endowed speakers' funds are still broken down by spring and fall. If only one show or event occurs in 2022, expenses for speakers and trophies may be reduced proportionately.

Other expenses are within the control of the Executive Committee and can be reduced or eliminated as circumstances warrant. For example, fewer conservation grants may be awarded than are budgeted and/or judging center support may be reduced or eliminated by Executive Committee vote. A combination of some or all of these factors may reduce the expenses actually incurred in 2022.

The Congress voted to approve this Budget for 2022.

Communications: Committee Chair Jeanne Rhinehart presented the following report: “We have met several times this year together with the Affiliated Societies Committee over Zoom to plan and produce several Affiliated Societies Zoom meetings. Our main goal has been to increase communication among member societies. We have also worked to develop a more robust The MidAmerican. We are encouraging articles from member societies for publication in each volume. The MidAmerican will be published three times a year.”

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Chair Charles Wilson said there was no report as his Committee has not received any requests for modifications in the Constitution/Bylaws.

Education and Research: Chair Cheryl Erins said her Committee has not received any grant requests – she has been adding education-related items to the website as they come in.

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Historical: this Committee lacks a Chair; no report

Orchidist of the Year: Chair Doug Hartong reported that his Committee will announce an Orchidist of the Year at the annual Orchid Festivals in Dayton. He plans for his Committee to do their work via Zoom. For 2021 the Committee named Jeanne Rhinehart as the MAOC Orchidist of the Year, and President Barry Jones made the presentation to Jeanne in Dayton in August.

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Show Schedule: Chair Lois Cinert presented the following report:

“Orchid shows! We missed them for most of two years. Now we are staging them again in many areas. They are sometimes smaller, sometimes held in different places and with different social rules in place. The important fact is that we are again able to show the flowers we love.

Last year, in July, while no one was paying attention, MAOC issued a new Show Schedule. You should be using it for any shows you are holding now. This show schedule changes ALL the class numbers. We have eliminated most of the ‘a’ designations, changed the sequence in some groups, and added many new classes in Pleurothallis and Dendrobium.

Like anything new, we do not know how well it will work for your orchid society show. If we need to change a class designation or move something in or out of a class, we need you to tell us. The way to do this is by first sending us a list of how many plants are in each class. This will tell us if we need to add a class or divide a class to better distribute ribbons to worthy flowers. Then, if your exhibitors have any comments or suggestions, please let us know that, too.

The Show Schedule is a document for you to use to make it easier for your exhibitors to enter their plants and get ribbons on the good ones. It should be making ribbon judging easier for the people who ribbon judge and clerk at shows. We can only make it work for you if we know what is happening at registration at your shows. We can add classes if we find that there are lots of one kind of plant being grown and shown that is not singled out in the schedule. If your registrar and exhibitors would like to have a change made, let us know.

Please send me a list of the number of entries in each class. This can be a copy of the show schedule with the numbers penciled in, or a spreadsheet with the information. It does not need to be formal, just accurate.

Please also send a list of genera in classes 109 and 110, the miscellaneous classes. This is how we determine if any of those plants are ready for their own class, based on the number of entries across the Mid-America region.

Thank you. We really appreciate it when we hear from you.

Lois Cinert, Tom Harper, Nile Dusdieker, Nathan Bell”
The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Technology: Chair Cheryl Erins reported that the new website is working well, and she has been updating it as needed. She would like to find someone to take over her role as webmaster.

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Ways and Means: Chair Sue Charles reported on very successful auctions at the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest in August. Although she has not yet heard from Treasurer Dana White on the exact amount of money raised, Eric Sauer was able to report the amount is approximately \$2,263, which was divided 50-50 between Mid-America and the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest. Sue and her Committee are already planning the auction for August 2022.

The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

Old Business: there was none

New Business: there was none

Election of Officers for 2022: Russ Vernon, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate:

President: Cheryl Erins

1st Vice President: Donna Lipowicz

2nd Vice President: Eric Sauer

Secretary: Doris Asher

Treasurer: Dana White

There were no additional nominations; this slate was accepted by unanimous vote.

Cheryl donned her President’s hat featuring a Chicago Cubs baseball cap festooned with DoubleMint chewing gum and orchids.

Russ thanked outgoing President Barry for his two years of service and will deliver a thank you gift (a golf club) to him at an upcoming meeting of the Cincinnati Judging Center.

Adjournment: There being no additional business to come before the Congress, President Barry Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Doris Asher

Additional Committee Reports

2020 Audit Report

I have reviewed the MAOC financial documents from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020 submitted by Treasurer Michele Little. All documents are present, the ledger and bank documents balance.

I commend Michele for her diligent work on behalf of the Congress.

Submitted,
Alexa Noel
MAOC Audit Chair

Treasurers Report

Checking account	CD 1	
\$5,311.42	\$5,567.29	
Money Market	CD 2	
\$55,540.81	\$6,611.25	
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
\$60,852.23	\$12,178.54	\$73,030.77

Dana White
Treasurer

FROM OUR SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

From *Into the Wild* by Ken Mettler, Central Ohio
Orchid Society

Tiny, Green and Unimpressive, but Rare The Adder's Mouth Orchid, *Malaxis unifolia*

One of the smallest orchids to be found in Ohio, if not the smallest, is the Adder's Mouth Orchid, *Malaxis unifolia*. As the name implies, plants of this species produce one leaf per year. That leaf is usually around the size of a fifty-cent piece. The biggest one I've found had

a leaf that was about half the size of the palm of my hand. I've joked that this

qualifies as a "jumbo shrimp." The flowers are also tiny, only about 1/8th inch (3mm) across. But it does produce a lot of them. Each diminutive plant can produce up to 80 flowers over the course of a month or so. The inflorescence slowly elongates as the flowers bloom, but the whole plant rarely exceeds six inches (15cm) tall. Flowering occurs from late June to early August, so most of July is a good time to look for them.

This species is something of a conservation enigma. The total range where it grows extends from the Canadian Maritimes to Wisconsin, south to the gulf states, and down the eastern part of Mexico and into Belize. Usually, such a wide-ranging species would be able to adapt to different environments, and would maintain significant populations, even with disturbances caused by human activity. This isn't always the case. Remember the Passenger Pigeon.

Indeed, *Malaxis unifolia* used to be found in large colonies, numbering into many thousands of plants, throughout much of the eastern United States. Alas, these colonies are no more. Today it's rare to find colonies of more than a few dozen plants. No one knows why. *Malaxis unifolia* used to be on the State of Ohio rare plant list as potentially threatened. Fortunately, enough new



colonies have been found in recent years to warrant de-listing and considering the Ohio population as relatively stable.

My observations of this species is that individual plants tend to be short-lived. A few years, or maybe a decade is the oldest that I've seen. For this reason, they seem to "move around" a bit. Individual plants will die out from year to year, but new seedlings pop up in new places. They prefer mesic woodlands and can be found sporadically throughout central-southern Ohio, with a few colonies scattered in other parts of the state.



If you go hiking in southern Ohio in July, keep an eye out for these tiny denizens of rich woodlands. Other species of orchids have blooming seasons that overlap the Adder's Mouth Orchid, including the much more common Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*), Purple Fringeless Orchid (*Platanthera peramoena*), Three Birds Orchid (*Triphora trianthophoros*) and Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*).



Article and Photo Credits by Ken Mettler

MAOC CONTACTS 2021-2022

<u>OFFICERS</u>	Budget: Janice Yates jyates4110@gmail.com
President: Cheryl Erins cerins10812@comcast.net	Communications: Jeanne Rhinehart
1 st Vice President: Donna Lipowicz ladysliper@roadrunner.comru	jeanws@me.com
2 nd Vice President: Eric Sauer eric@rvorchids.com	Conservation: Bill Morrison bill@rosinante.com
Secretary: Doris Asher asherdoris44@gmail.com	<u>Constitution and Bylaws:</u> Charles Wilson zooemeritus@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dana White dlw@zoomtown.com	Education & Research: Cheryl Erins cerins10812@comcast.net
Immediate Past President: Russ Vernon newvisionorchids@aol.com	Historical: vacant
<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u>	Nominating: Russ Vernon (Chair) newvisionorchids@aol.com
Affiliated Societies: Donna Lipowicz ladysliper@roadrunner.comru	Orchidist of the Year: Doug Hartong catmando@mindspring.com
Annual Meeting: Eric Sauer eric@rvorchids.com	Show Schedule: Lois Cinert george.cinert@att.net
AOS Liaison: Doris Asher asherdoris44@gmail.com	Show Tags: Hermann Pigors pigors@foxvalley.net
Audit: Alexa Noel alexa.h.noel@gmail.com	Technology: Cheryl Erins (Webmaster, Chair) cerins10812@comcast.net
Awards: Anna Morrison anna@rosinante.com	Ways and Means: Susan Charles scc1959@verizon.net

Affiliated Societies Websites

Society	Website
Alabama OS	facebook.com/alabamaorchidsociety
Ann Arbor OS	aaosonline.org
Atlanta	atlantaorchidsociety.org
Batavia	bataviaorchidsociety.org
Blue Grass	bluegrassorchidsociety.org
Central Indiana	centralios.org
Central Iowa	centraliowaorchidsociety.org
Central Missouri	centralmissouriorchidsociety.com
Central Ontario	coos.ca
Central Ohio	centralohioorchidsociety.org
Essex County	essexcountyorchidsociety.webs.com
Eastern Iowa	easterniowaorchidsociety.org
Grand Valley	grandvalleyorchidsociety.org
Greater Akron	thegaos.com
Greater Cincinnati	cincinnatiorchids.org

Greater Cleveland	gcos.org
Greater Lansing	greaterlansingorchidsociety.com
Greater Omaha	greateromahaorchidsociety.org
Greater Pensacola	facebook.com/GreaterPensacolaOrchidSociety
Greater Toledo	
Gulfcoast	gcorchids.org
Huntsville Orchid Society	facebook.com/groups/huntsvilleorchidsociety/permalink/740378676648807/
Illinois	ciorchidsociety.org
Illowa	facebook.com/growersoforchids
Kentucky	kyorchidsociety.com
Kingwood	facebook.com/KingwoodCenter
London Ontario	londonorchidsociety.com
Memphis	memphisorchids.org
Miami Valley	miamivalleyorchidsociety.com
Michiana	michianaorchidsociety.org
Michigan	miorchidsociety.com
Mobile Area Orchid Society`	mobileareaorchidsociety.org
Native Orchid Preservation Education S	nativeorchidpreservationeducationsociety.com
Niagara Frontier Orchid Society	niagarafrontierorchids.org
Northeast Alabama	facebook.com/NEAOS
Northland Orchid Society	northlandorchidsociety.org
Northeastern Wisconsin	newisos.org
Northwestern Michigan	nmorchid.org
Orchid Growers Guild of Madison	orchidgrowersguild.org
OS of Greater Kansas City	osgkc.org
OS of Greater St. Louis	osogsl.org
OS of Middle Tennessee	tnorchid.org
OS of Minnesota	orchidsocietyofminnesota.org
OS of the Royal Botanic Gardens	osrbg.ca/wp
Orchid Society of the Ozarks	oso-web.org
Peoria	facebook.com/Peoria-Orchid-Society-224849760918419
Prairie State	prairiestateorchids.org
Saginaw Valley	sagvalleyorchids.org
Smokey Mountain	smokymtnorchidsociety.com
South Metro	FB South Metro Orchid Society
South Mississippi	
Springfield MO	
Three Rivers	facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Three-Rivers-Orchid-Society-374952799184040
West Shore OS of Northern OH	westshoreorchidsociety.org
Windsor Orchid Society	windsororchidsociety.ca
Wisconsin Society	wisconsinorchidsociety.com