



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress
<http://www.midamericanorchids.org>

December 2014

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Nashville, TN Hosts MAOC Spring 2015

The Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee is pleased to be hosting the spring 2015 Mid-America Orchid Congress, March 20-22, 2015. The theme will be 'Orchids in Rhythm.' All meetings, exhibits, sales, and related events will be held at the Franklin Marriot Cool Springs in historic Franklin, TN, just 20 minutes south of Nashville. Full details including registration and hotel reservation information is available at www.orchidsinrhythm.org. Among the planned speakers are Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids on 'Unusual Species for the Cattleya Grower,' Olaf Gruss of Germany (noted orchid lecturer and author) on 'News of Phalaenopsis' and Rick Lockwood (local orchid grower and specialist in orchid nutrition) on 'What do Orchids Eat?' Confirmed vendors include Gold Country Orchids (www.goldcountryorchids.com), Miranda Orchids (www.mirandaorchids.com), Schordje Orchids (leosorchids@sbcglobal.net) and Stones River Orchids (harper_sro@bellsouth.net). A funny historical event happened in Nashville when they hosted the MAOC in 1980. Read about 'the president's hat thing' beginning on page 11.

A Message from Your President

Thank you so much for re-electing me as your President! I cannot believe that I am completing my first year! I appreciate your confidence in me to allow me to continue to work on your behalf for a second year.

Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures in the Franklin Park Conservatory Columbus OH – "Orchids Under Glass" indeed! What a treat it was to find another Chihuly glass sculpture around every corner – tucked creatively away into a perfect location!



Doris sporting her very short "chemo hair" in front of Chihuly glass "reeds" outside the Franklin Park Conservatory, home of "Orchids Under Glass", 11/8/2014.

(All photos pages 1-10 courtesy of Lynn O'Shaughnessy)

Mid-America forms a great support group – in February of this year I learned that I have breast cancer. My health care advocate and I negotiated with my medical oncologist to postpone the beginning of chemotherapy until after the Bloomington MN Mid-America, and on Tuesday, May 6th, I began my twelve weeks of chemotherapy followed by six weeks of daily radiation treatments, which concluded in mid-September. You MAOC folks have been marvelous as my personal support group!! Thank you so very much! Since one in eight of us women will get breast cancer in our lifetime, maybe it should not be surprising how many Mid-America women came to me to tell me their own breast cancer story. How very helpful you have all been to me!

Having lost all of my hair, I am now growing some again. Most of my chemo effects are fading away. Now I take a daily estrogen-blocking medication for five years (I think). I feel fine and am confident that the cancer is now a thing of the past.

Now that 2014 is quickly slipping into the history books, I look forward to working with you again during the new 2015 – call on me if there is any way the Mid-America Orchid Congress or I personally can help you. If I do not have an answer for you, I will try to find someone within the Congress who does. I hope that each of you has a wonderful holiday season and a very good year in 2015.

Come to Franklin TN with me in March – good country music, good food, and good friends! Be sure to register for the Sunday morning breakfast discussion on “What Is the Strength of Your Society?” These discussions are one of the highlights for me of a meeting of the Congress – I always take home some practical ideas for my own orchid society – I think you will find that to be true, too.

Communication is key. Ask questions. Share information. Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.

Doris Asher
President, Mid-America Orchid Congress

Fall Business Meeting
Columbus, Ohio
November 8, 2014

Call to Order – President Doris Asher called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. She welcomed all delegates and visitors and gave a special thank you to the Central Ohio Orchid Society for hosting this meeting. This was a nice location for the program.

Secretary’s Report – Secretary Cheryl Erins called the roll. The following affiliated societies were present:



- Alabama Orchid Society
- Ann Arbor Orchid Society
- Atlanta Orchid Society
- Batavia Orchid Society
- Blue Grass Orchid Society
- Central Iowa Orchid Society
- Central Kentucky Orchid Society
- Central Ohio Orchid Society
- Eastern Iowa Orchid Society
- Greater Akron Orchid Society
- Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
- Greater Lansing Orchid Society
- Greater Omaha Orchid Society
- Greater Pensacola Orchid Society
- Gulf Coast Orchid Society
- Heart of Dixie Orchid Society
- Illinois Orchid Society
- Kentucky Orchid Society
- Memphis Orchid Society
- Miami Valley Orchid Society
- Michigan Orchid Society
- Mobile Area Orchid Society
- Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
- Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
- Northland Orchid Society
- Orchid Growers Guild of Madison
- Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
- Orchid Society of Gr. Kansas City
- Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis
- Orchid Society of the Ozarks

Peoria Orchid Society
 Prairie State Orchid Society
 South Metro Orchid Society
 West Shore Ohio Orchid Society
 Windsor Orchid Society

Absent:

Central Indiana Orchid Society
 Central Missouri Orchid Society
 Central Ontario Orchid Society
 Essex County (Ontario) Orchid Society
 Grand Valley Orchid Society
 Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
 Greater Toledo Orchid Society
 Iowa Orchid Society
 Lincoln NE Orchid Society
 Little Egypt Orchid Society
 London Orchid Society
 Mansfield Orchid Society
 Michiana Orchid Society
 Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
 Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
 Orchid Society of Minnesota
 Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens
 Paducah Orchid Society
 Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
 Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
 South Mississippi Orchid Society
 Springfield MO Orchid Society
 Three Rivers Orchid Society
 Wisconsin Orchid Society

Cheryl reminded everyone to sign-in for their society at the back of the room with their email addresses so we can assure delivery of the Minutes of the Business Meeting. She announced to President Doris Asher that we did have a quorum.

President Doris Asher then asked for corrections to the minutes from the Fall Meeting in Dayton, Ohio. The motion to approve the minutes as written was made and passed. The minutes will be posted on the website. She thanked the Central Ohio Orchid Society for their participation and support of the MAOC, for their food, and great location. She recognized two new societies, Northland of Minnesota and Niagara Frontier of New York State, both of which had representatives present.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Alexa Noel



reported our net income from January 1 through April 26, 2014 as \$3436.60. Total income for 2014 is \$14368.64 and Expenses were \$10931.81 with a Total net worth of \$81,368.28. She noted that 44% was restricted and 56% was unrestricted. She mentioned a donation in memory of T. Ruben Jones on behalf of the Atlanta and Miami Valley Orchid Societies. A motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's report. (see Addendum 2)

Membership:

Alexa reported that all but 6 of our affiliated societies have paid their dues. One society has not paid in two years. Aileen Garrison will try to get three of the societies; Cheryl Erins will see if she can get one other. A motion to accept was made and it passed.

Beth Martin sold the remaining brownies at this time, as Lois Holmes, who was not present, would have done it! Beth offered the treats at \$5 apiece payable to Mid-America.

Committee Reports:

Affiliated Societies: Chair Mary Beth Mansour

reported the committee met on November 7, 2014 in Columbus. Members of the committee present were Doris Asher, Roberta Ginavan, Judith Rapacz, Mary Beth Mansour and Jim Newsome.



The committee discussed the following items:

- An invitation to join the MAOC was extended to the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania and to the Eastern Canada Orchid Societies.
- The breakfast topic in Franklin, TN, will be "What is the strength of your Society?"

A motion was made and passed to accept the report.

AOS Liaison Report: Liaison Doris Asher reported on two AOS Members Meetings: Bloomington MN April 30 – May 4, 2014, and also Orlando FL, October 29-November 2, 2014. She reported that two of the national special awards for the AOS were from Mid-America, both from the Cincinnati Judging Center: the Fred Hillerman award, for most outstanding Angraecoid was *Cryptopus elatus* 'Clara' AM/AOS owned by Jordan Hawley and the Robert Dugger Odontoglossum Award went to *Oncidium Helen Dugger* 'Dugger's Vision' FCC/AOS exhibited by Russ Vernon.

Doris announced that Aileen Garrison received the prestigious AOS Silver Medal, as well as our Greg Filter. Aileen became chair of the Judging Committee. Doris reported on the numerous personnel changes: The Inge and Peter Poot and Aileen Garrison to Judge Emeritus; Nile Dusdieker, Cheryl Erins, David Kessler and Dennis Seffernick to Accredited Judge. Students to probationary included Barbara Barnett, Hideka Kobayashi and Patrick Vuurman. We have five new students and Tom Harper was made senior judge. She noted that the Wilsons have moved to the Pacific Northwest. She also noted the deaths of W. James Harper, Ron Pallister, and Emly Siegerist and called for a moment of silence to note their passing. She reported that the new AOS library is well on its way at Fairchild. She also mentioned the webinars are very successful and thanked Cheryl Erins. Her report was accepted.

Annual Meeting: Chair Beth Martin congratulated the Central Ohio Orchid Society for a very successful show and meeting, with such a nice venue. She invited Tom Harper to the podium to talk about the next MAOC, Spring 2015 in Franklin, TN at the Cool Springs Marriott Convention Center, March 20-22 hosted by the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee. Tom said there was a whole lot to do there, and all MAOC



events are at the hotel. He passed out cards and said the website will be up in December. Get ready for Country Music and good food. Tom will provide a list of local restaurants and indicated that the goody bags will feature local products. He encouraged exhibitors, baskets or otherwise. The keynote speaker will be Olaf Gruss.

Beth then discussed the open dates for next fall and the fall of 2016, and reported that for Spring 2016 the MAOC will be hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society.

The Annual Meeting Committee is ready to assist financially (up to \$2500 seed money, to be repaid after all income and expenses are noted) and with any other support potential host societies may need. Please contact Beth Martin at 913-248-8669 or bethdougmkc@kc.rr.com for more information. The report was accepted and approved.

Audit: The Audit Committee reports only in the Spring.

Awards: Jordan Hawley announced the Awards for Christine Chowning:

The Mid-America Trophy - Most Outstanding Exhibit Staged by an Affiliated Society – went to the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society.



The Memoria Raymond McCullough Epidendrum/Encyclia Award for the best Epidendrum/Encyclia in the show went to:



Prosthechea rhynchophora, Tom and Pat Stinson (Mansfield OS, N Gilead, OH):

Delbert Lowell Jacks Award to the best specimen plant in the show went to:



Brassavola grandiflora, Windswept in Time Orchids (Broadview Heights, OH):

Clifford and Vivian Walters Oncidium Alliance Award to the best Oncidium Alliance Plant in the show went to: *Brassia Datacosa (verrucosa x caudata)*, Don Weber (Central Ohio OS, Columbus).

Christine M. Chowning Angraecoid Award to the best Angraecoid species in the show went to: *Aerangis luteo-alba*, Windswept in Time Orchids (Broadview Heights, OH)

Budget: Chair Jan Yates stated that the proposed budget will show an increase in income to \$12,900, with expenses estimated at \$12,525. \$4,000.00 is noted as income for registrations in conjunction with a show. Of other note, proposed honoraria is listed at \$600 and an expense for \$2500 to Middle Tennessee if they need it for their seed money with a repayment in the 2015 year proposed income after the show. The report was accepted.



Communications: Chair Doris Asher reported that this Committee has three areas of activity: our newsletter, The Mid-American, the Congress' website, and the annual essay contest. She announced that even though Susan and Charles Wilson have moved to the Pacific Northwest, they intend to continue as the editors of the newsletter. She reported that we are always looking for content for the web site. She asked that people send material for the website to her.

Doris reported on the winners for this year's essay contest. The topic: My Problem with Orchids is...

Third place (\$25): Eunice Ibanez Bragg, Windsor Orchid Society

Second place (\$50): Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota

First place (\$100): Kim Livingston, Orchid Society of Minnesota. People with good memories will recall that Kim's essay last year earned her a third place prize. Congratulations to her for the second year! And congratulations to Eunice and to Linda, too! Doris thanked everyone, who submitted an entry. The three prize-winning essays begin on page 9.

For the 2015 contest, the topic is: "My Most Exciting Orchid-Related Experience". The rules and prizes remain the same as for this year. The report was accepted and approved.

Conservation: Chair Russ Vernon sent in a report, read by President Doris Asher, that there were grants of \$400 to the Cleveland Botanic Garden, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and the Wheeler Thanouser Orchid Collection and Species Bank. The Cleveland Conservatory is adding orchid species native to Costa Rica. The McNeely Conservatory is replacing lost species and adding new specimens. The Wheeler has moved and added European terrestrial species to the collection and has full time employee, Cheryl LeBlanc. A



new grant was requested by the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society. They are building a native orchid species garden at the Buffalo Botanic Garden. The motion was made and passed by the membership to award the \$400 grants.

The report was accepted and approved.

Constitution & Bylaws: President Doris Asher read the report from Charles Wilson. Language was to be added to the ByLaws to reflect the changes in the MAOC's Annual Meetings Committee to act on societies that indicate a desire to host a meeting, without having to have a separate meeting and vote. Doris asked for a vote and it was passed. A copy of the change in Bylaws will be posted on the website. The full language of the change is in Addendum 1.

The report was accepted and approved.

Education and Research: Chair Doug Hartong reported that the committee met and discussed ideas such as putting out a local speakers list on the website, as well as webinar presentations, orchid potting or other suggested ideas. There is a possibility of putting student research papers on the website. The site www.michiganorchidspeakers.com is a great site to check for local speakers. Attendees are asked to submit names to Doug or Cheryl. We will also obtain the program given by Gustavo Acuirre and get it on the website. New members are desired for the committee.

Report accepted and passed.

Historical: No report.

Orchidist of the Year: Chair Lowell Jacks reported that Lois Holmes was supposed to present the award for the Orchidist of the Year but he would do it in her stead. Aileen Garrison, MAOC immediate past president, was recognized as being the Orchidist of the Year for 2014, and she received a



standing ovation for all her contributions. She has done so much for orchids through her work with the American Orchid Society and the Mid-America Orchid Congress and her local societies, to name a few, receiving a Silver Medal at the AOS recent members meeting in Orlando, Florida, approved as Judge Emeritus, and named the Judging Committee Chair for the AOS for the second time. Aileen graciously accepted.

Show Schedule: President Doris Asher read a report from Co-Chair Hermann Pigors that he has sold 2,000 tags, and there would be no further changes in the show schedule until the RHS decides what to do with *Dendrobiums*. He asked that all societies continue to send the numbers of entries in each class to Lois Cinert. The report was accepted and approved.

Technology Committee: In Chair Brian Spittler's absence, Doris reported that there is a glitch in the show schedule on the website and Brian has been working to resolve it. In the mean time Doris can email the new show schedule to anyone who needs one.

Ways & Means: Chair Roberta Ginavan reported that Jim Newsome would be donating one of his vases for an upcoming raffle. This year's raffle prize is the 2-volume book *Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species*, donated to the Congress by the publisher. Saturday's auction raised \$2355. She thanked the members of the committee, Karen, Barry and Alexa for their help in the auction, and Alexa presented Tennis Maynard, President of the Central Ohio Orchid Society a check for \$1,177.50, one half of the proceeds from the auction. Alexa also reported that if people would like to order a set of the books being raffled off today, to make out checks for \$125.00 to the MAOC. She will do all the ordering and processing.



Old Business: None

New Business: President Doris Asher invited Aileen Garrison to present the Nominating

Committee Report. Aileen said that is easy. The candidates are the same as this year!! President Doris Asher, 1st VP Jim Newsome, 2nd VP Jan Yates, Secretary Cheryl Erins, and Treasurer Alexa Noel. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, asked for a vote. The slate was approved by acclamation.



(l to r: Jim, Jan, Alexa, Doris and Cheryl)

President Doris Asher then recognized Roberta Ginavan, who reported that the raffle proceeds were \$740.00. The winner of this Congress' raffle was Beth Martin. She assured everyone that she had purchased her tickets the evening before!

Doris then thanked everyone who had sent cards and letters to her while undergoing treatment for breast cancer and that she is doing well and continuing her active life.

Adjournment: Constitution and By-Laws Committee representative Lowell Jacks moved that "The actions taken by the officers and committee members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress since the last annual meeting be ratified and confirmed and the officers and committee members be commended for their good work." The motion was seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned by President Doris Asher at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Erins, Secretary

Heard any great speakers lately?

If you have heard a great speaker in your local area, please forward the speakers' names, contact information and orchid topics to the Education Committee: Doug Hartong (Catmando@mindspring.com) and Cheryl Erins (cerins10812@comcast.net).

News from Canada: Windsor Orchid Society (WOS) AOS Judged Show held in October 2014

The WOS is very proud and excited to have hosted a very successful, second annual International AOS judged orchid show and sale on October 25th and 26th of 2014. The show was well attended with a count of over 900 people participating during the two day event. People came from all over southwestern Ontario and from Michigan to view the spectacular exhibits and purchase beautiful and rare orchids from the vendors. Vendors have been excited to participate in our show and we hosted many of our favorite vendors from Ontario such as Marsh Hollow, Crystal Star, Ravenvision and Orchids in our Tropics to name a few. We also had the privilege of having Piping Rock Orchids from the United States and Ecuagenera from Ecuador as vendors at the show. Needless to say that there were orchids to satisfy everyone's desire!

The show was hosted at the end of October and, being around the Halloween season, a welcome display was there to greet our guests upon their entrance into the venue. The fun and spooky display featured three witches and a bubbling cauldron accompanied by bats, cats and crows! Beyond the welcome display people ventured into the display area. The fragrance and number of orchids was hypnotizing. There were so many outstanding exhibits including one by Marsh Hollow Orchids that won the AOS Show Trophy. Congratulations Mario Ferrusi! The show also featured an art and photography exhibit that was even larger than the one the prior year with many paintings and photographs displayed. The vendor area was a flurry of activity as orchid enthusiasts searched for their favorite orchids. Certainly people were not disappointed in the variety of vendors and orchids alike.

One of the mandates of the WOS is to promote and educate the public about orchid culture and preservation. This show allowed us the opportunity to promote awareness of the beauty of orchids and the need to foster the culture and preservation of these unique plants. To advance this mandate, free seminars were

presented for the public on the Sunday afternoon which received great reviews in the feedback from the attendees.

We would like to thank all our presenters for their time, expertise and their passion to promote orchid culture and express our appreciation to the vendors, exhibitors and of course the public for their interest and participation in the WOS show.

For show results and additional photos, please visit our website

<http://www.windsororchidsociety.ca/index.html>

The three witches concoct their brew at the show entrance



Winner of the AOS Show Trophy, a three-dimensional floor display from Marsh Hollow Orchids (Mario Ferrusi)



Our team of judges readies themselves for a long morning of ribbon judging. The Windsor Orchid Society is supported by the Toronto Judging Centre, but judges from the Great Lakes Judging Center in Ann Arbor also participated.

Conservation Details

The Conservation Committee of the Mid-America Orchid Congress would like to inform you that it has awarded grants of \$400 to each of the following:

The Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland, OH - They continue to augment their Costa Rican Biome display with orchids native to that country/region.

The McNeely Conservatory, St Paul, MN - They add species to their collection for public display and replace specimens that may have died in previous years.

The Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank, Muncie, IN - They have used their funds to acquire terrestrial orchid species native to Europe. They have moved into their newly built facilities: The Alice and Joe Rinard Orchid Greenhouse. The facility enjoys state of the art climate controls and includes a small conservatory for display.

The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society in association with the Buffalo-Erie County Botanical Garden, Buffalo, NY - The society is to develop a native species orchid display garden.

Please consider visiting these orchid friendly facilities. Most are free of charge or are free if you are an AOS member. The committee will be working on getting information and web site links to these organizations on the MAOC web site to aid your visit.

If your society has a conservation project in mind, or you know of an institution that has an interest in orchid conservation, please contact Russ Vernon at newvisionorchids@aol.com, MAOC Conservation Chair

On the Calendar:

Smoky Mountain Orchid Society is planning a local show to be held in Knoxville, TN, on April 18 & 19, 2015 at the Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville, TN.

Contact: Bonnie Armstrong, Show Chair
850 Promiseland Road, Blaine, TN 37709
Email: smos@frontiernet.net
[865-567-2983](tel:865-567-2983) (cell); [865-828-8055](tel:865-828-8055) (home)
(Be sure to check for full listings of AOS sanctioned shows at:
<http://aos.org/Default.aspx?id=512>)

2014 ESSAY CONTEST: **Results and the essays!**

One of the responsibilities of the MAOC Communications Committee is the Congress' annual essay contest.

At the Indianapolis Congress meeting in April 2012, we decided to revive the Mid-American essay contest, which existed some twenty years before. The "inaugural" topic was "Why _____ Is My Favorite Orchid Genus" – with the writer filling in the blank. People were welcome to write about his/her favorite orchid or species within a genus. The essays could be no more than 500 words in length; the deadline for submission was October 1. Prizes are \$100 for first place; \$50 for second, and \$25 for third prize.

The Committee received just two entries and awarded each a second prize of \$50 each. Both entries appeared in the December 2012 Mid-American.

The 2013 essay contest did better, bringing in nine entries. The topic was "Travels with Orchids". Those prize-winning essays appeared in the November 2013 Mid-American.

For the 2014 contest, the topic was: "My Problem with Orchids Is (writer fills in the blank)". The rules and prizes remain the same as in 2012 and 2013. We received eight entries, and this year's winners are:

Third place: Eunice Ibanez Bragg, Windsor, Ontario Orchid Society

Second place: Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota

First place: Kim Livingston, Orchid Society of Minnesota. People with good memories will recall that Kim's essay last year earned her a third place prize. Congratulations to her for the second year! And congratulations to Eunice and to Linda, too! Thank you, everyone, who submitted an entry. The three prize-winning essays begin on this page.

The Mid-America Orchid Congress invites you to enter their essay contest for 2015: the topic is "My Most Exciting Orchid-Related Experience" -- and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than September 1, 2015, to Doris Asher (asherdoris@juno.com) – winners will be announced at the Congress' Sunday Business Meeting in the fall of 2015 – date and place to be announced. You do not need to be present to win. First prize wins \$100.00; second, \$50; third, \$25. All three prize-winning essays will appear in future issues of the Congress's newsletter, The Mid-American.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Doris Asher via email (or by phone (517-332-0004). Doris Asher, Chair, Communications Committee

First Place - Kim Livingston, Orchid Society of Minnesota

My Problem With Orchids Is...

My problem with orchids is...they take "forever" to die. Everyone has one or has had one like this. One of those plants that you were just so in love with when you bought it. A truly lovely phalaenopsis. It bloomed regularly, rarely had bugs and always seemed to be blooming just when you needed something for the show. You had long ago ceased to give it the attention it deserved; instead just counting on it to be there and be fine. But then one day while working on some long overdue plant chores, you see it. Oh no, when did that happen? Is that crown rot!? What the heck, how long has that been brewing? Out it comes and is whisked to the hospital table. You mix

up a small batch of Phyton 27 and spray it down heavily, marking the calendar to re-treat again in a week.

The week flies by and despite your efforts the plant has now lost the central leaf. But the rest of the plant really looks pretty good so you retreat and try not to think about it. Another few weeks go by and the plant looks the same. You really don't want to put it back out into general population, so it stays in the hospital under the lights. Months go by with no change. One day you are watering "the lost cause that just won't die" and you realize it is in spike. With no crown, how can that be? And to top it off the spike is coming out of the center of the dead crown. That's just silly. Oh but the flowers are so nice on this plant you decide to let it bloom and enjoy it one last time. The flowers are lovely as ever and last for several months but you finally bite the bullet and cut the spike down. And so the plant sits again, still crownless, but still surviving.

Tough decisions. It is not really dead yet you know – almost wish it were. Sure would make tossing it on the compost easier. But you cannot throw out a plant that is still alive, right? The roots still look good and the leaves haven't gone limp or yellow. It has only been eight months, it could still send up a side growth. It could you know. Really it could...

Postscript: I wrote this essay in June 2014 intending to add an "obit" for the plant at the end and send it on to Doris. Not so fast. I kept the plant I wrote about as it is one of my husband's favorites, Phal Deloris Tinburg. In late July, it sent out a tiny new leaf and as of late August now has two small leaves. They truly are amazing plants that never die ☺ Kim Livingston

Second Place - Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota

My problem with orchids is....

My problem with orchids? There is no problem if you are the type of person who enjoys devoting all your free time,

both mental and physical, to the pursuit of finding, acquiring, and caring for them to the detriment of all other activities in your life. I used to be what one would call a "well-rounded" person. I enjoyed a good book by the winter's fire. Spring found me haunting the nurseries, in pursuit of new plants for my garden. Summer was for golfing. And the fall was for bonding with family and friends. I can even recall a few nice, long vacations. All that ended the day I bought my first orchid. It was only a matter of months before there was a table-full, and then they started to expand throughout the house. My mother, upon walking into my living room one day, probably put it best, "You don't have a house, you have a plant nursery in here!" And so it goes.

Today, it is a rare moment that you find me sitting by a warm fire. Instead, I bask in the glow of HPS lights. Spring is spent repotting the myriad of plants that always seem to be overgrowing their pots. Then it's on to preparing the outside growing area and figuring out just when it's safe enough for the plants to move out there. Summer is an endless cycle of watering as well as putting on and taking off layers of shade cloth. And fall, well that's for hauling all those plants in and trying to figure out how, if they all came out of here, they could possibly go back in. And vacations? Well, sure, they happen now, but they can't last more than a few days or I have to hire and train an orchid sitter to make sure the needs of my precious charges continue to be met. And just where do I go on these fabulous vacations? Orchid shows, orchid sales, orchid habitats. You name it, it's all about orchids.

Suffice it to say, my life has been taken over by orchids. They have crept in, beguiling me with their beauty. They have challenged me as I strive to meet their needs. There have been successes, both large and small. And there have been the inevitable failures. Throughout it all, they have continued to amaze me and have lured me in, quietly but surely, and I am now caught, irrevocably in their grasp. Escape, I don't think so. And why would I want to? Because through those very same orchids, I have found an unexpected pleasure, that of fellow orchid

lovers! That first orchid has led me down a road that I would never turn back from. There are bumps and turns, but that would be true of anything. So, I continue on, enjoying it all, both good and bad. There is no problem with orchids here....

Third Place - Eunice Ibanez Bragg, Windsor, Ontario Orchid Society

My Problem with Orchids is.....

Epidendrum ibaguense The tale of a sleeping orchid that forgot to wake up to display its blooms in due season.

As an orchid novice in 1986, there was an orchid cutting on the raffle table for the draw at our local society meeting. The ticket my late husband had purchased was called and I had the fortune of choosing the best amongst the many prizes. I happily chose the fresh cutting with its promise of new roots to add to my beginner's collection.

"This *Epidendrum* is easy to grow" suggested the donor of the plant. I nurtured it under fluorescent light in the winter and in the summer I carefully placed it in an outside location to receive morning southern exposure, dependable regular feedings to be shared with the rest of my orchid collection, lots of love and the sound of classical music (my preferred sound in my working and growing place).

Ten years hence, the Spring of 1996.... It bloomed! Clustered bright orange flowers with a fringed labellum with yellow blotches, dense racemes and very showy. *Epidendrum ibaguense* – what else could anyone ask for? I did not take it to the Orchid Society meeting to put on the show table, it was too tall and awkward to manage. Then, for the longest time, there were no more blooms. The plant is healthy with silvery roots, and lots of new growth – one can appreciate it as a house plant. So, I decided to study the culture – what did I do wrong that it is not blooming? I saw many pictures of big potted plants full of inflorescences displayed on some Californian patio. In Florida and in Mexico, they grow and bloom wild by the

roadsides. Why can't I re-bloom this in due season?

Perhaps this is a good time to quote Carol Siegel's article, Zen of the Orchid Club, from the Orchid Digest (volume 70-1).... "to flower an orchid is to have the human approach the Divine". I've done that – years of melodic classical harmonies, honoring the connection of gratitude, blessing the plant.

March, 2013.... It bloomed! A display of bright orange clusters on a wiry stem, not as dense as the first blooming but, to me,WOW! Happy blooming #2. You are only 27 years green, where have all your blooming gone? Your elusive blooming taught me great patience, to appreciate your greenery all these years and to still have high hopes – one day you will look just like those pictures of floriferous *Epidendrum ibaguense* in all of the picture books and magazines I studied.

Perhaps this is Carol Siegel's subtle way of telling me, "You are still a young student to expect your plant to give full blooms while the master worries about the roots." I still nurture the plant, this time with great expectations.... you have to do better and sooner, for it is pleasing to be considered a young student at my age. To see inflorescences with clusters on every stem, bright orange and charming, is a great delight for an orchidist like me. Happy blooming to all.

So, What's with the strange hats?

It started in about 1980 at a MAOC in Nashville, TN, and Henry Holmes was President. The Holmes and Clif Walters were walking down the street and passed a wig shop that had a HOT PINK curly wig in the window. Clif dared Henry to wear it and thus the tradition began. The wig was passed from President to President for many years and finally disappeared. At that point a new wig or 'head-gear' became a tradition for each incoming President, symbolically 'not taking themselves too seriously'. Do you have any photos to share of classic head dresses worn by the

historic Presidents of MAOC? Please send to the Editors (SusanwilsonRN@gmail.com). Here is the list of MAOC presidents and some of their impressive chapeaus (special thanks to Laura & Tom Harper). When the Congress was formed in 1959, its first president was J.W. (Joe) Smith. The 27 subsequent presidents and the years they served:

1. Dr. H. A. Hecht (1959-60)
2. Charlie Plaxico (1961-63)
3. Frank Kuper (1964-66)
4. FL Stevenson (1967-68)
5. Ken Johnston (1968-69)
6. Craig Foster (1970-72)
7. Lyle Elliott (1972-73)
8. Gus Bartenfield (1973-75)
9. David Nax (1976-77)
10. Clif Walters (1978-79)
11. Henry Holmes (1980-81) wore pink wig (Tradition begins)
12. Ray McCullough (1972-83) wore same pink wig
13. Tom Harper (1984-85) bear skin cap with orchid flowers
14. Anna Lee Boyett (1986-87) gold crown
15. Lois Holmes (1988-89) hat = ?
16. Hermann Pigors (1990-91) Tyrolean hat
17. Shirlee Gade (1992-93) beaded Cleopatra headdress
18. Lowell Jacks (1994-95) duel league baseball cap
19. Gerda Ferrington (1996-97) maple leaf crown
20. Doug Watson (1998-99) baseball cap with gold crown
21. Peter Poot (2000-02) Dutch rain cap/hat
22. Tim Brooks – 2002-03
Straw Halloween hat
23. Pat Cleveland – 2004-05
Southern Belle sun hat
24. Beth Martin – 2006-07
Orchid bonnet
25. Mark van der Woerd – 2008-09
Jester's cap
26. Doug Martin – 2009-10
Graduation mortar board with plant stakes

27. Aileen Garrison – 2011-13
Admiral's tricorn hat
28. Doris Asher – 2013-15
Furry halo with ornaments

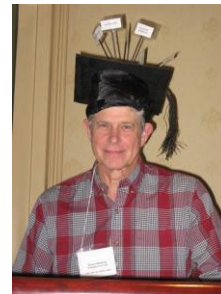
And here are some of the toppers from the past from the archives:



Tim Brooks



Pat Cleveland



Doug Martin



Aileen Garrison



Doris Asher

Affiliated Societies
Breakfast Report

The Sunday morning Affiliated Societies Breakfast held at the Franklin Park Conservatory, brought out forty persons to discuss: **INCREASING MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION IN YOUR SOCIETY.** Ideas from the discussions:

General Information - Recruiting Volunteers:

- Welcome new members with friendship-visit before meetings, show hospitality
- Personal request to volunteer for specific job
- Exhibit an attitude of liking the job you are doing & asking
- Have a mentor program
- Itemize jobs & events of coming year on membership renewal. Encourage member to volunteer for at least 1 job
- Offer repotting seminar to the public & new members
- Encourage new members to clerk
- Encourage participation-be supportive-don't be unnecessary critical ("That's not how we have done it.")
- Encourage a beginners' group that socializes & plans activities as a group

Recruiting Officers

- Ladder system
- Officers are "directors," sharing duties
- Re-cycle officers
- Ask after 2 years membership

Recruiting to set-up exhibits: Individuals hesitate to volunteer. They fear being judged

- Have a program "Setting Up Exhibits." Bob Fuchs is recommended
- Have 2 shows per year/one AOS; one ribbon, allowing members to set up individual exhibits in ribbon judging
- Expand classes to include Most Creative; Junior Class. These classes would not be required to comply with AOS standards
- Give a "People's Choice" Award

- Suggest baskets as a simple exhibit
- Compensation to set-up out-of-town exhibits: \$25-100
- Rent a van to transport plants & staging
- Encourage a group to set-up. Make the weekend a social event
- Ask 1 new member to join experienced group in setting-up display

Editors' Note

All MAOC affiliated societies are encouraged to send articles, photos, announcements, etc for The Mid-American to SusanWilsonRN@gmail.com

Addendum 1

Amendment to: Article XIV Committees: Annual Meeting Committee

The sentence as reads:

This Committee shall be charged with making recommendations to the Delegates at each meeting concerning sites and dates for Congress meetings.

Shall be changed to read:

This Committee shall be authorized to accept invitations without making recommendations to the Delegates at each meeting concerning sites and dates for Congress meetings.

**Addendum 2: Treasurer's Report
MAOC Net Worth
November 2014**

PNC Checking	14383.57
PNC Money Market	35328.67
PNC CD #1	5386.81
PNC CD #2	6503.73
BMO Harris Savings	0.00
BMO Harris Checking	0.00
BMO Harris CD#1	6330.51
BMO Harris CD#2	13434.99
UBS	0.00
Total Net Worth	81368.28

Mid America Orchid Congress
 May 4, 2014
 Treasurer's Report
 Income and Expense
 1/1/2014 – 4/26/2014

Income:

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Auction Income		
Spring/shared with host	1250.00	8053.00
Fall/shared with host	2500.00	0.00
Investment Income	50.00	6.37
Donations/Honoraria	600.00	250.00*100.00* *100.00***
Meeting Income	3000.00	0.00 Both meetings hosted
Show Tags	250.00	250.71
Society Dues	1500.00	1404.00
Income Not Budgeted		
Transferred from BMO		4189.56
Refund from insurance		15.00
Income YTD		14368.64

*Gift from Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and Miami Valley Orchid Society

**Donation to Auction

***Donation in Memory of T. Ruben Jones from the Atlanta Judging Center

Expenses:

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Bank Charges	25.00	0.00
Conservation Grants	2000.00	2000.00
Conservation Speaker	750.00	Endowed
Filing Fee-Ohio	50.00	50.00
Judging Center Support	900.00	900.00
Insurance	450.00	0.00
Show Expense	3000.00	350.00
Postage & Copies	100.00	33.04
Officer Expense	100.00	14.48
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker	1500.00	Endowed
Trophies	550.00	251.73
Website	0.00	0.00
Total budgeted	9425.00	
Expenses not Budgeted		
Transferred from BMO		4189.56
Spring Host Share		3143.00
Total Expenses		10931.81
Total YTD		3436.60 Income