



The Mid-American

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

June 2014

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Columbus, OH Hosts MAOC Fall 2014



The Central Ohio Orchid Society is pleased to be hosting the fall 2014 Mid-America Orchid Congress, November 6-9, 2014. The theme will be “Orchids Under Glass.” In addition, the Cincinnati AOS JC will hold their monthly judging at the show on 8 November. All meetings, exhibits, sales, and related events will be held at the historic Franklin Park Conservatory (www.fpconservatory.org). Complimentary shuttle service is planned between all venues. Among the planned speakers are Alexaj Popow of Popow Orchids, Germany, (also a vendor with Popow Orchids (www.popow-orchids.com)), Andrea Niessen, Colombia, (also a vendor with Orquideas del Valle, www.orquivalle.com), and Patricia Harding, Lebanon, OR. Confirmed vendors include Ecuagenera, Peruflora, Ten-Shin Orchids, Michel's Orchids, Schordje Orchids, Popow Orchids, Orchid Inn, Windswept in Time, Bexley Orchids, Roberts Flower Supply, New World Orchids and Orquideas del Valle. For more information and registration information, contact Tom Bell-Games at Tom.Bell-Games@burgessniple.com, check the Central Ohio Orchid Society website (www.coosinfo.info), or the Mid-America website at www.midamericanorchids.org.

(All photos pages 1-13 courtesy of
Lynn O'Shaughnessy)

A Message from Your President



I took over the podium as President of the Congress when we met at the wonderful meetings in Bloomington, MN, in early May. I was pleased by the way both the meeting of the Executive Committee and also our Business Meeting on Sunday morning went. A lot of interesting, worthwhile things are happening within Mid-America – thank you to all of the orchid-loving volunteers making that happen. As you continue with your orchid society's summer activities, if you have issues or questions with which you think the MAOC can help, please reach out to me. If I do not have an answer for you, I will try to find someone within the Congress who does.

One of the amazing things that took place in Minnesota was finding that Susan and Charles Wilson of the Memphis Orchid Society were willing to relieve me of the responsibility of editing The Mid-American. Please submit items and suggestions to them as you have with me. I thank all of the individuals who contributed to the fourteen issues I prepared since my appointment as Editor in the fall of 2008. I hope to see you when the Congress meets this

November 7-9 in Columbus, OH. When you register, be sure to register for the Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday morning – we shall be addressing the difficult problem of how to increase membership participation – do you have trouble getting volunteers to set up out-of-town exhibits? Does your Nominating Committee struggle to find candidates for open offices? Do members want to contribute nothing more to the Society than their annual dues? If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, let us discuss it together over breakfast – and maybe come up with some solutions. Let me hear from you.

Doris Asher, President
Mid-America Orchid Congress

**Spring Business Meeting Minutes Draft
Bloomington, MN
May 4, 2014**

(Minutes subject to approval at the Fall Meeting in Columbus; please send any corrections to Secretary Cheryl Erins at cerins10812@comcast.net)

Call to Order – President Doris Asher called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. She welcomed all the members and visitors and gave a special thank you to the Orchid Society of Minnesota for hosting this meeting. They have done a fabulous job.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Cheryl Erins called the roll.



The following affiliated societies were present:
Alabama Orchid Society
Northeast Alabama
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Orchid Growers Guild of
Madison

Batavia Orchid Society
Orchid Society Middle Tennessee
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society
Orchid Society of Minnesota
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
Orchid Society of the Ozarks
Greater Lansing Orchid Society
Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Smoky Mountain Orchid Society

Atlanta Orchid Society
South Metro Orchid Society
Gulf Coast Orchid Society
West Shore Ohio Orchid Society
Illinois Orchid Society
Wisconsin Orchid Society
Iowa Orchid Society
Central Indiana
Memphis Orchid Society
Orchid Society of Gr. Kansas City
Miami Valley Orchid Society
Three Rivers Orchid Society
Michigan Orchid Society
Windsor Orchid Society
Mobile Area Orchid Society
Michiana Orchid Society

Absent:

Blue Grass Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society
Prairie State Orchid Society
Central Iowa Orchid Society
Lincoln NE Orchid Society
Central Kentucky Orchid Society
Little Egypt Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society
London Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society
Mansfield Orchid Society
Central Ontario Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society
Essex County (Ontario) Orchid Society
Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
Greater Akron Orchid Society
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society
Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis
Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Peoria Orchid Society
Paducah Orchid Society
South Mississippi Orchid Society
Springfield MO Orchid Society

Cheryl reminded everyone to sign-in for their society at the back of the room in order to receive the minutes from the meeting. She announced to President Doris Asher that we did have a quorum.

Doris 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.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Alexa Noel



reported our annual income from January 1 through April 26, 2014 as \$5822.41. She mentioned that she transferred \$4189.56 from BMO because the fees were outrageous. This

is reflected in a transfer to the regular account. Our expenses through the same date are \$833.04 with a net year to date of \$799.81. She said that Total Income for 2013 was \$32,702.74 and Expenses were \$30,667.08 with a total net worth of \$77,861.39. She noted that 44% was restricted and 56% was unrestricted. She added that we were quite solvent. Alexa also noted that over the past few years the Trophy fund had done poorly interest wise, but is doing better now due to the higher interest rates. She added also that the Tax Reports were filed as required by law. A motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

Membership

Alexa Noel reported that all but 11 have paid their dues. Central Iowa paid up for the past three years. We have taken in \$1200 so far this year. The problem is that people's roles change and no one notifies us and we cannot get in touch with people. Remind your societies if there is a change of officers, to please let the MAOC know. A motion to accept was made and it passed.

Affiliated Societies

Chair Mary Beth Mansour reported the committee met on May 3, 2014 in Bloomington, MN. Members of the committee present were Doris Asher, Roberta Ginavan, Judith Rapacz, Susan Wilson and Mary Beth Mansour with Jim



Newsome being absent. The committee discussed the following items:

- Forty three of 54 societies have paid their dues.
- We have a new Society, Niagara Frontier Orchid Society of Buffalo, NY and it is our first society from that state. We are talking with another society from Pennsylvania.
- When the AOS and MAOC meet together, there is no ASC breakfast so therefore no discussion topics needed.

A motion was made and accepted to accept the report.

AOS Liaison Report:

Doris Asher read her report of the AOS Fall Meeting at Fairchild Gardens, Coral Gables Florida, Nov 13-17, 2013. She announced that the Fred Hillerman Award (most outstanding Angraeoid) went to *Aerangis mystacidii*, 'Windswept's White Waterfall' CCM/AOS, (Windswept in Time Orchids, Great Lakes Judging Center). The Robert Dugger Award (Odontoglossom) went to *Oncidium* Deloraine 'Jeune Vision' HCC/AOS, (New Vision Orchids, Russ Vernon, Cincinnati Judging Center). The Bill Toms Award (Bulbophyllinae) went to *Bulbophyllum bicolor* 'Amanda' AM/AOS (Mike Saar, Memphis Orchid Society Show, Atlanta Judging Center. Three being from MAOC affiliated centers was noted. The President's Award was given to Greg Filter for his devoted work developing the new Orchids Plus Program. A Silver Medal was given to Aileen Garrison for her tireless efforts on behalf of the AOS and MAOC. She is the new Judging Committee Chair as well, replacing Harry Gallis, MD. Doris reported the new officers that were elected for the AOS here in Minnesota:

President: Frank Smith, Vice Presidents: Mario Ferrusi, and Harry Gallis, MD. Secretary: Jean Hollebone, Treasurer: Susan Wedegaertner, Asst. Treasurer: Nancy Mountford. A motion was passed to accept the report of the AOS Liaison.

Doris asked Cheryl Erins to speak about the New AOS webinars, a new feature for members on the website. She told everyone about the webinars, and that she is looking for other

speakers, but that Greg Filter will do one on the new Orchids Plus program being released this week. Everyone should be getting the disks shortly. These webinars can be viewed on the web site, on the left, by clicking on any of them. If you are not logged in, you will be directed to log in or join. She said we have an audience in Spain, Mexico, Canada, Columbia and the US, and she will be varying the times so that other countries might be able to view one in a better time than 3 am.

Annual Meeting – Chair Beth Martin, on behalf



of the Annual Meeting Committee, thanked the Minnesota Orchid Society and now that Kim Livingston was in the room asked her to come forward not only to receive 1/2 the proceeds from the auction but to also be thanked for hosting our meeting. This has been an outstanding Mid-America meeting!

The next meeting of the Mid-America Orchid Congress will be hosted by the Central Ohio Orchid Society. The Cincinnati Judging Center will hold their monthly judging there as well on Nov 8. The invite was received before the meeting, but was "technically" not approved. A motion was made, subsequently amended and approved to give permission for this committee to accept invitations when there are no meetings, subject to a review of the Bylaws by the governance committee.

The following were noted:

Spring 2015 Nashville, TN (March 19-21)

Orchid Society of Middle TN)

Fall 2015 OPEN

Spring 2016 Cincinnati/Dayton, OH (TBA

Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
and Miami Valley Orchid Society)

Beth called on Tom Harper from the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee to say a few words about the upcoming show. Tom welcomed the membership to attend the



Spring 2015 meeting to be held at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, TN March 19-21, 2015. He reminded members of the great entertainment in the area with good food and country music. He said the keynote speaker will be Olaf Gruss.

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 they need, any societies interested in hosting a Mid-America meeting. Please contact Beth Martin at 913-248-8669 or bethdougma@kc.rr.com for more information. The report was accepted and approved.

Audit – Chair Judith Rapacz reported that all



materials were received from Treasurer, Alexa Noel, and that all were in proper order. The report was accepted.

Awards – Michelle Little listed the following



recipients of this fall meetings' MAOC trophies: The Mid-America Trophy - Most Outstanding Exhibit Staged by an Affiliated Society – went to Orchid Society of Minnesota:



The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award – Best Specimen in Show – went to *Lycaste Always 'Breath of Spring'* by New Vision Orchids, Russ Vernon:



The Henry C. Holmes Award – Best Oncidium Alliance in Show – went to *Onc. (syn Oda.) Shine Gate*, exhibited by Russell Vernon of New Vision Orchids:



The F.L. Stevenson Award for Pleurothallid Alliance went to *Platystele reflexa* exhibited by Ross and Julie Hella:



The Fox Valley Cypripedium Alliance award went to *Phrag. Scarlet O'Hara 'Tall Dark and Handsome'* FCC/AOS from Orchids Limited:



The report was accepted and approved.

Budget – Chair Jan Yates has no report at the current time as their work has not started yet.



Communications - Chair Doris Asher reported the Editor of The Mid-American distributed over 770 copies to societies and judging centers. She thanks everyone who contributed information, articles, photos, and computer expertise to that issue. She also announced that Susan and Charles Wilson have accepted the



responsibility to be the editors in chief of the newsletter. She thanked them and Doris received a standing ovation for her contributions since 2008.

Each issue is posted on the Congress' website: www.midamericanorchids.org. She thanked Brian Spitler from the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society who has been invaluable as the Congress' webmaster, and he has accomplished great things in his first two years. All of the sections of the website have been updated and enhanced. Necessary changes are now being made in a timely manner. In addition, he and Treasurer Alexa Noel developed the capability for us to register online via the website for our Congress meetings when registration is managed by the Mid-America Orchid Congress. Doris reported on the prizes for the the topic for Orchid Essays. The winners in the 2013 contest:

Third place: Kim Livingston, Orchid Society of Minnesota "The Bus Trip"

Second place: Cheryl Erins, Batavia Orchid Society "Travels with Orchids"

First place: Lynn O'Shaughnessy, Greater Lansing Orchid Society "Annette's First Orchid Show". In this very creative essay, Lynn writes from the perspective of Masdevallia Annette Hall, which is panicked by being packed into a dark box as she goes to her first show. So far this year Doris has received no essays with the subject being The Problem with Orchids is.... The rules and prizes remain the same as this year. The report was accepted and approved.

Conservation

Chair Russ Vernon reported that committee members met on May 3, 2014. He reported that the new Society Niagara Frontier Orchid Society of Buffalo, NY has made a request for a grant. The letter was received with the purpose stated to enhance their Botanic Garden cypripedium collection.

Russ mentioned that they need to file a report of proposed expenses and acquisitions. He also discussed the request from the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory request for \$400, and the Cleveland Botanical Garden and also that the Wheeler Thanhouser Orchid Collection and Species Bank. He said that the Wheeler Garden plants were being moved this weekend to their



new home. He asked that we grant permission to extend the grant of \$400 to the Niagara Frontier Society as soon as the proper paperwork is received by the Committee. He also was requested to get information from former grant winners to report their successes in the Mid American Newsletter. He thought that was a good idea. The motion was made and passed by the membership to award the \$400 grants. The report was accepted and approved.

Constitution & Bylaws - Chair Charles Wilson stated no report at this time.

Education and Research – Cheryl Erins stated that she had not heard from Chair Doug Hartong, and there is no report at this meeting.

Tehnology – Chair Brian Spitler was not present but President, Doris Asher, complimented him on his work for us.

Ways & Means – Chair Roberta Ginavan



thanked Doug Martin and Karen McBride for running the auction, as well as the bidders, Peter Furniss and Lowell Jacks. Aileen Garrison raised an issue in that she did not pay for her brownie. She paid \$100 for it. The total was \$6386.00. One half goes to the Orchid Society of Minnesota. Kim Livingston accepted on behalf of the Society. Alexa was to write another check for \$50 which is 1/2 of the \$100, but Kim donated that back to the MAOC.

Roberta reported that the books donated by Barry Jones, the 28 volume set Thesaurus Masdevalliarum, had been valued at a price of \$600 and was purchased by a friend of Charles and Susan Wilson who is a professor at the University of Memphis. Barry has also stated he wishes to donate a Thesaurus Dracularum, slightly less in volumes, for sale with the proceeds to go to the MAOC.

Roberta discussed the Raffle Vase from Ephraim Faience Pottery, commissioned especially for the MAOC. She stated that the company was very easy to work with and it

complimented the committee in return. She cannot finish her report until we are done with the raffle. She said it was not easy, having to get a copyrighted picture approved and thanked the committee for their hard work on this project. Her report was approved.

Historical: Lois Holmes reported that we sold \$59 in Salty Dog Candy (Doggie Bites). There were more for sale that morning. Lois discussed a possibility of writing a history of the MAOC as we have so many people who contributed to the major developments of



the MAOC. One person she highlighted was Doris' husband who was a great orchidist and not too many of us know about him or others. She wanted permission to explore the possibility of getting these famous people from our societies in a book. The motion was proposed and accepted. Her report was accepted.

Show Schedule: Lois Cinert reported that the committee of Hermann Pigors, Nile Duisdeckker, MD, met on May 3, 2014 and decided that they needed to make changes in the show schedule as a response to many inquiries and issues



from the current show schedule, and recognize some of the changes within the classes here to date. Due to the length of this report, it is attached as addendum 1. She emphasized that it needed to remain valid incorporating all the changes in Vanda and Cattleya from DNA studies and changes within the AOS. The schedule was sent to Lowell Jacks and he is on board with the changes. She will get the schedule out before July 1 to all the Judging Centers and the Societies before the Fall show season. The Report was accepted. (see Addendum II below)

The Orchidist of the Year – Chair Lowell Jacks had no report as yet.

Old Business:

Lowell Jacks asked if \$150 has been sent to the Judging Centers. Alexa Noel, Treasurer, reported she sends it right after the Spring Meeting.

Announcement: President Doris Asher invited Jack Shumaker, member of the Saginaw Valley Orchid Society, to discuss the International Cypripedium Meeting in Hilo, Hawaii. He passed out flyers.

Norito Hasagawa will be a featured speaker, October 18, 2014 for a Seven Michigan Society joint meeting.

Doug Martin thanked Ron McHatton from the AOS for moving the AOS auction so that the MAOC auction could be held. Both did very well. Others in the audience shared thoughts about the success of the meetings and how well they were organized.

New Business: Doris asked if there was anything new to report, and recognized Roberta Ginavan to do the lottery. Roberta reported that the raffle brought in \$1,070.00 and, considering all the other auctions, that we had done very well. Doris stated that she hoped the winner could be here. The winner of the Ephraim Faience Potter vase was Jan Yates, sitting up on the stage. Roberta's report is now complete.

Adjournment: Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chair, Charles Wilson 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 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted:
Cheryl Erins, Secretary

Addendum II

Show Schedule Committee report May, 2014

The Show Schedule Committee met in Bloomington, Minnesota, on Friday May 2, 2014. Present were Hermann Pigors, Lois Cinert, and Nile Dusdieker. Tom Harper was excused, Nathan Bell absent.

The committee acknowledged the continuing changes to taxonomic nomenclature, and have attempted to acknowledge and include those changes while maintaining the integrity and usefulness of the Show Schedule. We had intended to only discuss relevant changes, but as our conversation continued, we decided to take on all the necessary corrections at this time.

We have also taken into account comments and suggestions from society members who have had trouble identifying which class is correct for their plants. We hope that the changes we are proposing will solve those problems, and will keep the Show Schedule functional for a long time.

Section C – Cattleya Alliance continues to present problems with the changes to well-known names. For the purpose of ribbon judging, we will continue to use Laelia and Sophronitis. To clarify what will be included in classes 17 – 24, we have added the name Guarianthe to all of the class listings. For classes 10-16, we have adjusted those to exclude or include Guarianthe as required. We have also added an additional class, 23a to include Red/Red Shades smaller than 4 inches.

As a direct response to society inquiries, we have added classes to section E Cypripedium Alliance. 34a Paphiopedilum hybrids, primary, multifloral, any color, is added. And also 39a Paphiopedilum hybrids, complex, multifloral, any color. Both include the phrase ‘3-4 flowers expected at maturity’. We have not ignored Phragmites, and who could ignore Phragmites kovachii? We have adjusted class 41 to read – Phragmipedium besseae hybrids, excluding Phragmipedium kovachii. We have added class 41a Phragmipedium kovachii hybrids.

In section F Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance, we have attempted to conform to the new classification of almost everything as Vanda by changing the Ascocenda classes to Vanda

hybrid classes, with the addition of size limitations along with the color designations. Section H Cymbidium Alliance has also been changed to acknowledge the complexity of modern Cymbidium breeding by changing the designations by size of flower rather than reference to breeding background.

In J Miscellaneous Genera, we have changed class 100, Miniature species, hybrids and intergenerics to exclude Cattleya and Phalaenopsis. We feel that the smaller plants in those genera can be covered with the flower size designations in their classes.

We are hoping that with these changes we will be able to let the Show Schedule function without further changes for a longer period of time. We also hope that these changes will be made early enough in the year, and after the main show season, that you will be able to easily incorporate the changes into your shows.

D. Cattleya Alliance

11. Encyclia, Epidendrum and Prosthechea hybrids and intergenerics, but excluding Cattleya *and Guarianthe*.

12. Brassavola species (including Rhyncholaelia), hybrids and intergenerics other than above, but excluding Cattleya *And Guarianthe*.

13. Broughtonia species, hybrids and intergenerics other than above, but excluding Cattleya *and Guarianthe*.

14. *Traditional* Laelia and Sophronitis species, hybrids and intergenerics other than above, but excluding Cattleya and *Guarianthe*.

15. *Cattleya and Guarianthe species*.

16. *Cattleya and Guarianthe allied genera species other than above*.

All listings 17-25 should include: *Cattleya and Guarianthe* hybrids and intergenerics other than above

23a Cattleya and Guarianthe hybrids and intergenerics other than above, Red/Red Shades *flowers 4 inches or less*

26. Eliminated – flowers are covered with size limitations in 17-25

E. Cypripedium Alliance

27 – 34 as listed

34a. *Paphiopedilum* hybrids, primary, Multifloral, any color. (Having 3 or more flowers when mature)

35—39 as listed

39a. *Paphiopedilum* hybrids, complex, Multifloral, any color. (Having 3 or more flowers when mature)

40. *Phragmipedium* species.

41. *Phragmipedium besseae* hybrids, excluding *Phragmipedium kovachii*.

41a *Phragmipedium kovachii* hybrids

42. *Phragmipedium* other hybrids.

F. *Vanda* and *Phalaenopsis* Alliance

43 – 59 as listed

60. *Vanda* species

61. *Vanda* hybrids Orange/Yellow, flowers smaller than one inch.

61a *Vanda* hybrids Orange/Yellow, flowers larger than one inch.

62. *Vanda* hybrids Red/Pink, flowers smaller than one inch.

62a *Vanda* hybrids Red/Pink, flowers larger than one inch.

63 *Vanda* hybrids Blue/Purple, flowers smaller than one inch.

63a *Vanda* hybrids Blue/Purple, flowers larger than one inch.

64 *Vanda* hybrids Other colors, flowers smaller than one inch.

64a *Vanda* hybrids Other colors, flowers larger than one inch.

65 – 66 as listed

67 Eliminated

68. as listed

69 *Vanda* allied hybrids and intergenerics other than above.

G. *Oncidium* Alliance

77. *Traditional Odontoglossum* species, hybrids and intergenerics other than above

H. *Cymbidium* Alliance

79. *Cymbidium* hybrids, flowers 3 inches or larger.

80. *Cymbidium* hybrids, flowers smaller than 3 inches.

J. Miscellaneous genera

100. *Miniature species, hybrids and intergenerics, Classes 27 – 42, and 58 – 99 (excludes *Cattleya* & *Phalaenopsis*)*

CASH FOR BEST ESSAY

The Mid-America Orchid Congress invites you to enter their essay contest. Write an essay on “My problem with orchids is...” (writer fills in the blank) -- and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than October 1st to Doris Asher (asherdoris@juno.com) – winners will be announced at the Congress’ Sunday Business Meeting in Columbus, OH, November 9, 2014. 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.

As this time (late May), we have no entries. Aspiring writers have no competition! Submit an essay.

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

REPORT ON THE BLOOMINGTON, MN, MEETINGS

The Spring meeting of the Mid-America Orchid Congress took place April 30-May 4, 2014, in Bloomington, MN. This was a combined meeting of the semiannual Members’ Meeting of the American Orchid Society (AOS) with the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC). The Orchid Society of Minnesota hosted this massive endeavor with the two groups in addition to the Pleurothallid Alliance, the Slipper Orchid Alliance, the International *Phalaenopsis* Alliance (IPA), and the *Angraecoid* Orchid Alliance! And they did it so very well! Kudos to Kim Livingston and her leadership team. An outstanding job!

All events took place in the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington; about 280 people registered for the event, some of them for the MAOC, some just for the AOS, and some of us for both. The

host society estimates 1,150 members of the general public attended the show.

Things got under way Wednesday evening, April 30th, with the Judges' Forum where registrants learned about the use of the "World Checklist of Selected Plant Families"

(<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>) as the official word on genera, especially in affected genera such as vanda, oncidinae, maxillaria. Greg Filter, Chair of the AOS Technology Committee, brought attendees up to date on the new Orchids Plus, the judges' computer program to research award records.

Ribbon judging of the large show (690 entries in 22 exhibits) took place on Thursday morning while many judges were busy with their respective AOS committee meetings. All of the judges convened Thursday afternoon to award ten of the 43 orchids selected for consideration of awards.

Kathy Creger of the Orchid Society of Minnesota, assisted by Lois Cinert of the Illinois Orchid Society, ably guided the 74 judges (including a judge from the Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain, Chris Purver) as they did the ribbon judging. They selected the exhibit mounted by Orchids Limited of Plymouth MN for the AOS Show Trophy and an AOS Silver Certificate of 86 points. They gave the Orchid Digest Show Trophy to the exhibit entered by the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society.

The following lists the three exhibit awards and the ten orchid awards:

AOS Show Trophy, and 86 pt Silver Certificate;
Orchids Limited
85 pt Silver Certificate; Orchid Society of
Minnesota

1. Bulb. treschii 'Swamprad' CHM 81;
Mark Mills (Memphis TN)
2. Chilochista viridiflava 'Livingston' AM
80; Steve & Kim Livingston
(Bloomington, MN)

3. Masd. coccinea alba 'Winter White'
HCC 75; Orchids Ltd. (Plymouth, MN)
4. Masd. Jelly Belly 'Memoria Robert
Wroda' (Copper Angel x mendozae)
CCM 82; Linda Sizer (Buffalo, MN)
5. Paph. Odettes Charm 'Lone Jack'
(Petula's Mystery x Odette's Spell) AM
81; Alex McConnell (Lone Jack, MO)
6. Phal. Candy Stripes 'Tehucan Valley'
(Malibu Bistro x Paulina) HCC 78;
Orchids Ltd. (Plymouth, MN)
7. Phrag. Scarlet O'Hara 'Tall Dark and
Handsome' (besseae x Jason Fischer)
FCC 91; Orchids Ltd.
8. Rodrumnia Orchidom Dancer 'Burgundy
Chateau' (Tol Fan Dancer x Rrm Kone's
Good Choice) AM 81; Orchids Ltd.
9. Rodrumnia Orchidom Happy Choice
'Emma' Rrm Kone's Good Choice x Tol
Orchidom Happy) AM 83; Orchids Ltd.
10. Tolumnia Orchidom Treasured Love
'Killer Bees' (First Love x Orchidom
Treasure) AM 82; Orchids Ltd.

Winners of special Mid-America Orchid
Congress trophies: See Awards Committee
Report (above).

Lectures:

Keynote Address: Chris Purver of the Eric Young Foundation on the island of Jersey gave the keynote address in which he talked of the history of the Foundation and its works with Stanhopea and Sobralia among several other genera. In a second lecture on Friday he talked about "Reviving interest in Calanthes and hybrids within the Oncidiinae."

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in Sacramento discussed culture for Sarcocylus in the lecture "Sarcocylus, A Whole New Look.

Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids stressed the importance of watering mounted orchids often and thoroughly in his lecture "Mounted Orchids Fact & Fantasy." A very interesting DIY project on display: a growing chamber of plastic sheeting and PVC pipe.

Russ Vernon, a recognized *Odontoglossum* breeder and award-winning grower, discussed the requirements for growing *Odontoglossums* : "Odontoglossums: A Brief History and Their Culture or How to Grow Killer Odonts and not Get Frostbite."

Appealing to the interest in *Phragmipediums*, Jason Fischer from Orchids Limited in Plymouth, MN, recognized the trend by discussing "Growing and Breeding with *Phragmipedium kovachii*."

The IPA speaker Carlos Fighetti, from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, reviewed the wonderful *Phalaenopsis* species.

Jerry Fischer from Orchids Ltd in Plymouth, MN, in a great presentation, reviewed the "The Wonderful World of *Cattleya* Species".

Cordelia Head from J & L Orchids spoke on "Micro-minis in the *Pleurothallid* World, focusing on plants that are 3 inches or less in size."

Kathy Creger, a member of the Orchid Society of Minnesota, presented her wonderfully creative botanical art.

The Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Friday morning was hosted by the AOS's Affiliated Societies Committee (rather than by the MAOC). Lois Holmes chaired the event and challenged the people seated at each table to prepare a list of things about their societies that were unique. At the conclusion of the Breakfast, one person from each table reported on the unique or notable activities reported at that table. Examples included:

- use of copies of *Orchids* magazines to encourage people to join local societies

and/or the American Orchid Society. Some people give them at shows or when society members give talks at a garden center, for example; some give them to visitors at meetings or give a sample issue when a person joins;

- gift of seedling to new members
- encouraging participation at the show table by rewarding points earned with a monetary reward at the end of the year;
- newcomers' corner at the social hour of meetings, to help with questions and problems
- kids' table at shows, with coloring books, puzzles, pot decoration
- offering a beginners group lecture or workshop prior to the regular meeting.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO LOCAL SOCIETIES – from Sunday's Business Meeting

1. SOCIETY WEBSITE HELP: MAOC offers assistance to societies developing websites: contact Brian Spitler, MAOC webmaster, and talk it over with him (publicationschair@cincinnatiorchids.org). Brian recently assisted the Atlanta Judging Center with their website.
2. TREASURER Alexa Noel reported total assets of the Congress at \$77,861, of which \$43,809 is unrestricted.
3. NEW EDITORS of *The Mid-American*: President Doris Asher announced the appointment of Charles and Susan Wilson of the Memphis Orchid Society as Co-Editors, replacing Doris, who has held that post for six years. You can reach the Wilsons at susanwilsonrn@gmail.com.
4. NEW MAOC society: Niagara Frontier Orchid Society (Buffalo), the first New York orchid society to join MAOC.
5. CONSERVATION GRANTS: The MAOC Conservation Committee

welcomes grant requests. At present MAOC funds projects at The Cleveland Botanical Garden, The McNeeley Orchid Collection – St. Paul MN and the Wheeler Orchid Collection – Muncie, IN. Additional information www.midamerican.org

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- | | | | |
|------|--------|----------|---|
| 2014 | Fall | November | 7-9,
Franklin Park
Conservatory, Columbus,
OH (hosted by the
Central Ohio Orchid
Society) |
| 2015 | Spring | March | 19-22,
Marriott Cool Springs
Hotel, Franklin, TN
(hosted by the Orchid
Society of Middle
Tennessee) |
| 2016 | Fall | Open | |
| | Spring | Date | TBA,
Dayton, OH (Co-hosted
by the Greater Cincinnati
Orchid Society and the
Miami Valley Orchid
Society) |
| 2017 | Fall | Open | |
| | Spring | Open | |

7. CONSIDER HOSTING A MAOC. A 5-year spread sheet (attendance, finances, hotel rates, etc.) is available from Annual Meeting Committee. Contact Beth & Doug Martin (bethdougmk@kc.rr.com). \$2500 seed money can be loaned to a society.

8. AUCTION/RAFFLE: The MAOC Saturday night's Auction brought in \$6,286 with an additional \$1,070 (\$720 profit) raised in the raffle of the lovely, unique Ephraim Faience Pottery vase. Half of the funds raised in the auction were shared with the Orchid Society of Minnesota. (During the course of the Business Meeting, helpful people raised another \$159!) Kim Livingston, Show Chair, was able to be present to receive the

Congress' check. Although Ways and Means Chair Roberta Ginavan offered her a revised check to reflect the additional money, Kim asked the Congress to keep the extra as a donation from OSM. The money raised will assist MAOC in funding three institutions in amount of \$400 each: McNeeley Conservatory; Wheeler Orchid Collection/Ball State & Cleveland Botanical Garden. In addition, MAOC annually funds each judging center \$150. At the conclusion of the Business Meeting, the lucky person holding the winning raffle ticket was none other than 2nd Vice President Janice Yates! Congratulations to her!

9. In a separate FUNDRAISING endeavor, the Congress reported having sold the Thesaurus Masdevalliarum donated years ago by Barry Jones of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society to a buyer in Memphis, TN, for \$600.

10. MAJOR SHOW SCHEDULE CHANGES: After July 1 when changes will be completed, check MAOC website: www.midamericanorchids.org/Judging.

11. Special Visit from NORITA HASEGAWA: Seven Michigan societies will host Norito on October 18, 2014 in Okemos, MI. Contact Jack Shumaker ([jacobblers58@aol.com](mailto:jcobblers58@aol.com)) for more information.

12. AOS offers WEBINAR programs. This is a new service available to all AOS members – Non-members may sign up and participate by joining the Society. See www.aos.org for more information. A webinar on pests had 208 participants; the one on dendrobiums, 193.

13. IRS REQUIREMENT: If your society is a 501(c)3 organization, remember to file the required annual tax return. Failure to file on an annual basis results in the loss of the society's tax-exempt status.

14. 2014 DUES: Please pay 2014 Mid-America Congress dues. The MAOC is dependent on

local societies to maintain their membership in the Congress. If your society has not yet paid 2014 dues, please do so (see listing on the last page of this newsletter).

Plan to attend the next MAOC in Columbus, OH, November 7-9, 2014, hosted by the Central Ohio Orchid Society at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Guest speakers include Alexej Popow, of Popow Orchids, Germany; Andrea Niessen, of Orchideas del Valle, Colombia; and Patricia Harding from Lebanon, OR.

* * * * *

The very practical discussion topic at the Fall 2014 Affiliated Societies Breakfast will be: "Increasing Membership Participation in Your Local Society" -- we hope you will mark it on your calendar and register for the Breakfast when you register for the Columbus meetings.

If you have any questions for the Affiliated Societies Committee or the MAOC in general, feel free to contact any of the Committee members below. We are all committed to helping you make your membership in MAOC meaningful and profitable.

Mary Beth Mansour, Chair
Fairview Park, OH
mbmansour1@cox.net

Roberta Ginavan Jim Newsome
Treyner, IA Irondale, AL
ginavan@frontier.com jnews91126aol.com

Judith Rapacz Doris Asher
Ft Myers, FL E Lansing, MI
jorapacz@wisc.edu asherdoris@juno.com

Susan Wilson
Hernando, MS
susanwilsonrn@gmail.com

Sharing Your Love of Orchids with Kids by Sandy Stubbings

What can the AOS do to interest the youth of today in orchids? That is the question that has

been consistently addressed by the Education Committee of the AOS. I would like to tell you about two resulting projects in the hope that members and affiliates will pick up on them. One is a Girl Scout Interest Project and Patch. The other is a set of activities that children can do at shows.

Girl Scout Interest Project

For any orchid lovers who are involved in Girl Scouting, we have developed an Interest Project and iron-on Patch. Both are available for your use by contacting Sandy at sstubbings@comcast.net. Since we are just beginning to explore possibilities, we are eager to work with Scout personnel to modify and/or develop the requirements for issuing the patch.

Several leaders who have contacted us have had very good project ideas for girls to earn the patch. Many requirements of the American Orchid Society Interest project can be fulfilled at an orchid show. One excellent idea is to have Girl Scouts help with local shows to earn patches.

Perhaps you can combine both the Girl Scout and the Kids' Corner projects by having Girl Scouts volunteer to supervise the "Kids' Corner" at your shows.

Kids' Corner

We hope affiliated clubs will copy these activities, eventually creating their own "Kids' Corner". To that end, I have been sending "Orchids" an article each month that providing instructions for making/setting up an activity that can become part of a Kids' Corner. The Houston Orchid Society and SWROGA have successfully pioneered such a table in 2012 and 2013 shows so all activities are tested and proven successful. Heart of Dixie Orchid Society (Huntsville, AL) and Memphis Orchid Society (TN) also successfully mounted Kids' Corner tables in 2014.

This month I will begin with an overview of the activities we included in our table and I will give instructions for constructing an activity for

the Corner each successive month. Please feel free to use these ideas in your own planning.

Our goals included promoting youthful interest in orchids, involving children in the show more directly, providing educational opportunities and rewarding children in a meaningful way that encourages interest. We wanted to avoid meaningless busywork. For example, flowering plants were provided at the drawing station for the children to incorporate in their drawing and the coloring pages were evaluated for information they included. More information on these criteria will be incorporated in the detailed instructions to be provided monthly.

To begin, you need a table and volunteers. It is possible to place the Kids' Corner next to the Society's Table and have a volunteer supervise both tables, although it is better to have separate supervision. The most successful placement for the Kid's Corner is near the entrance where kids and their parents will see it right away.

The Houston Orchid Society created a "Photo Panel" to stand at the Corner and catch people's attention. The Kid's Corner consisted of a table of activities and a hanging vinyl photo (4' x 6') of an orchid. The vinyl poster hung from a photographers frame and had the center cut out of one of the flowers for children's (or adult's) faces. Parents or friends would take photos of their children's/friends faces in the flowers. Next month I will include detailed instructions so your club can create this very successful activity.



The table held sorting boxes, coloring pages, drawing paper with 2 plants for children to incorporate in a picture, and an orchid hunt for flowers exhibited in the show. For the sorting boxes, each box had a type of orchid printed on it and photos of orchids of that type pasted on the box. The children were given envelopes of laminated photos of individual orchids to sort

into the correct boxes. For those too young for these boxes, other boxes were painted, each with a single color. The same photos could be sorted into these boxes by color. Coloring pages were printed from the internet and an orchid coloring book. The orchid hunt consisted of manila folders. Each folder had about 10 photos of orchid flowers in the show. These were numbered and stapled onto one side of the folder. The facing side of the folder had a chart for the child to write in the name of each orchid and the exhibit containing the plant.

Rewards: Each child who does an activity can be rewarded with a mini-ribbon. Collect old ribbons from members before the show and cut off the back (with the date, etc.) and any club name on the front that is not your own club. This results in small ribbons the child can pin on a shirt. (Supply safety pins with the ribbons.) The object is to have children wandering the show wearing ribbons and feeling good about themselves.

Instructions: Each activity had instructions in clear plastic, exhibit frames. Instructions for the children and their parents were printed on the front; instructions for the volunteers, if needed, on the back. (See future articles for copies of the printed instructions for each activity.)

There are other societies that have included activities for children in their shows and I am hoping you will share those activities with us. You can contact me at sstubbings@comcast.net with your ideas and I will include them in a future article.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Article and photos by Jan Yates
and Jeanne Rhinehart

As I write this, I'm in a second floor study at my home in Cincinnati overlooking my back yard which has a small lath house full of (mostly) repotted orchids. And bare spots where some of the garden is a work in progress. I should be gardening outside today; instead, I'd like to tell you about the RHS Chelsea Flower Show aka 'the Great Spring Show' which ended a few days ago.

My friends on this trip were Jeanne and Barry Rhinehart of the Greater Cincinnati and Miami Valley Orchid Societies and Emily Davis of the Jacksonville and St. Augustine Orchid Societies. We had all of the necessary flower show gear – comfortable shoes, backpacks/water, hats, cameras and extra SD cards ... and umbrellas because this is, after all, England in the spring.



The Chelsea Flower Show gets its name from its location on the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where it moved in 1912. The hospital is a retirement and nursing home for approximately 300 British soldiers, some of whom can be spotted by the exhibits in the Great Pavilion wearing their distinctive red uniforms, and the badges that identify their military campaigns. They are a crowd-pleaser in their own right. For the five days that the show runs, 160,000 people will attend; attendance is actually capped or it would be higher. Tickets are not cheap; my one-day admission cost £68 pounds but tickets are so desirable that scalper's prices for this year's show were upwards of £700.

The grounds are not enormous but with limited time to view outdoor exhibits and sales tents plus the Great Pavilion, 500 exhibits in all, we checked out the orchids first. Emily and I waited by the Jacques Amand International exhibit until after a BBC crews finished shooting; this exhibit was featured in the nightly (for the run of the show) broadcast on Chelsea and while it was roped off temporarily by the BBC crew, we gawked. The company specializes in bulbs of all types and more than half the exhibit were non-orchids but the terrestrial orchids were breathtaking, hundreds of *cyripediums*, species and hybrids, *bletillas*, *dactylorhizas*. After shooting my own close-ups, we talked to one of the owners. The company exhibits at the

Philadelphia Flower Show each year, not just Chelsea and other flower shows in Europe, but does not have an American distributor for its plants. Nonetheless, I brought home a catalog for the 'eye-candy' value and because I was curious about what is available to European orchid hobbyists. The catalogue listed hybrids: Annegret (*parviflorum x shanxiense*), Boots (*calceolus flavum x montanum*), Kentucky Pink, Lothar Pinkepank (*pubescens x kentuckiense*) and Michael (*macranthos x henryi*) and species: *formosanum*, *kentuckiense*, *parviflorum ssp. parviflorum* and *ssp. pubescens*, *reginae* including the album form and *Dactylorhiza maculata*. The *dactylorhiza* was the cheapest orchid at £11.75 each and the 'cyps' ranged from £22.50-41.50. (A pound currently is approximately \$1.70)



Two things struck me about the Amand exhibit and others that featured woodland or terrestrial plants that included orchids, such as this one. First, everyone, and I do mean everyone, spoke about all their plants using the Latin names. Not a common nickname was heard. Second, the orchid terrestrials were terrestrial plants first, orchids second and their appeal was to a broader gardening audience than I am used to thinking about.

Not to say that there wasn't the traditional orchid exhibit. McBeans Orchids from East Sussex has been a vendor of *cymbidiums*, *odontoglossums*, *paphiopedilums*, especially the complex or 'bulldog' variety, and other orchids since 1879. Its naturalistic exhibit, note the use of seasoned tree stumps, maidenhair ferns and moss, displayed some of the epiphytic orchids for which McBeans is known. Many years ago, when I had a hobby import permit and the unreasonable belief that standard cymbidiums were suitable for under lights culture, I ordered

from McBeans. The company had lovely plants, then and now.

As someone who sets up orchid displays for my society, I'm comfortable with naturalistic displays; working with moss, stumps and ferns feels like an appropriate setting for orchids to me. Clearly I'm in a rut. The Barbados Horticultural Society sponsored by the Barbados Tourism Authority was all 'hot' colors using *vandas* and *phalaenopsis*. The exhibit by the Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden emphasized ties between Thailand and the Great Britain in a tableau featuring temples, animals and figures made of thousands of cut orchids in the vandaceous and dendrobium alliances. The tropical garden in Chonburi province, Thailand is known primarily for its cycad collection but also contains tropical gardens and a small zoo, hence the orchid elephants and peacocks with fern tails. (When I read in the show catalogue that the city of Cape Town, South Africa and Kirstenbosch Gardens had displays of native wild flowers, I went on a search for *disas* but, alas, found none.)



In the young designer area of the Great Pavilion, I found wearable orchids. All the participants were young florists, ages 16-25, designing a 'fantasy floral dress' to be worn at a crystal-themed ball. Two-thirds of each dress was to be made of fresh flowers and plant material. Each dress was eligible for an award certificate (gold, silver-gilt, silver or bronze). The overall winning dress is the third from the left, designed by a 22-year old florist using *phalaenopsis* flowers, *Stachys lanata* leaves and a dusting of gold leaf.



Finally, at one end of the Great Pavilion, Emily and I found an exhibit and an orchidist, with whom many of us can identify. Meet Val Micklewhite, the lady holding a gold medal certificate, whose picture is being taken with her cousin who was just visiting the show and surprised her. Val, her husband (not shown) and Sam Hurley (taking the picture) are members of the Orchid Society of Great Britain, and over the course of six days put in the society's exhibit. Like most of us who put in displays, none of them had any idea, really, of what plants were going to show up. Unlike, most show sponsors, though, the RHS requires exhibitors to submit an exhibit design in advance of the show, which is subject to its approval. The theme for the exhibit was "The cosmopolitan world of orchids – how, why and where they grow." The orchids were arranged by hemisphere and, of course, an expected focal point plant, failed to bloom in time for the show.

The OSGB has about a thousand members, from all over Great Britain plus some international members, gaining and losing about 100 members annually. It publishes a quarterly magazine, a very nice one, I might add. Members grow in glass houses (greenhouses) and under lights, attend monthly meetings, throw the occasional potting bee for new members and schedule a field trip once in a while. (The next trip is to Borneo, so the OSGB trips are a little fancier than the ones my society does.) Like many societies, long-time members worry about getting young members into leadership positions. I know, at least part of this, because my ears perked up when Val said the society had some members in Australia and New Zealand. So how much does a membership cost, I asked. For the balance of the year, it was £10 plus another 5 for postage. So I joined. And Emily joined. And Jeanne and Barry joined.

And I got a membership for a friend who was house sitting for me.

And then it was time to depart the show. But I will be back. If you ask me when, I will say simply that I'll use Alice's Rule of Compensatory Cash Flow. Alice being Alice Trillin, late wife of the humorist Calvin Trillin, whose motto (rephrased loosely by me) was 'money not spent on a luxury is a windfall and should be spent accordingly.' So, I'll be back soon, very soon.

Janice Yates

New member, Orchid Society of Great Britain
(9 days and counting ...)
(P.S. Found the *Disas* at Wisley Gardens.)

KEY MID-AMERICA CONTACTS



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

OFFICERS

President: Doris Asher
517-332-0004; asherdoris@juno.com
1st Vice President: Jim Newsome
205-951-3737; 205-503-3522 (cell);
jnews91126@aol.com
2d Vice President: Janice Yates
513-475-9771; jyates11@earthlink.net
Secretary: Cheryl Erins
269-244-5256; cerins10812@comcast.net
Treasurer: Alexa Noel
513-469-8767; alexa.h.noel@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Affiliated Societies: Mary Beth Mansour
440-333-5364; mbmansour1@cox.net
AOS Liaison: Doris Asher
517-332-0004; asherdoris@juno.com
Annual Meeting: Beth Martin
913-248-8669; bethdoug@kc.rr.com
Audit: Judith Rapacz
239-223-5540; jrapacz@wisc.edu
Awards: Christine Chowning
859-278-5256; c.chowning@insight.bb.com
Budget: Jan Yates
513-475-9771; jyates11@earthlink.net
Communications: Doris Asher

517-332-0004; asherdoris@juno.com
Constitution & Bylaws: Charles Wilson
901-606-9454; zooemeritus@gmail.com
Conservation: Russ Vernon
765-759-5991; newvisionorchids@aol.com
Education & Research: Doug Hartong
770-594-7334; catmando@mindspring.com
Historical: Lois Holmes
763-561-6380; lois.holmes68@gmail.com
Nominating: Aileen Garrison
770-961-0449; aileeng5@bellsouth.net
Orchidist of the Year: Lowell Jacks
706-632-9818; ljacks@tds.net
Show Schedule: Hermann Pigors, Co-Chair
847-836-0456; pigors@foxvalley.net
Lois Cinert, Co-Chair
630-739-1068; george.cinert@att.net
Technology: Brian Spitler
publicationschair@cincinnatiorchids.org
Ways and Means: Roberta Ginavan
712-487-3085; ginavan@frontier.com

PARTING SHOT: We bid a fond farewell to the Admiral - Aileen Garrison, MAOC President 2011-2013:

