



The Mid-American

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

October 2015

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MAOC Spring Meeting in Cincinnati March 19-20, 2016

The next MAOC meeting is in Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society, to be held at a magnificent hotel site downtown, March 19 and 20, 2016. No banquet is scheduled for this meeting as there was a desire for all registrants to eat at ORCHIDS, a famous local restaurant. The speakers will be Francisco Miranda, Leo Glicenstein, and Peter Lin. The room rate was set for \$99. The site should be up shortly.

A Message from Your President



My message to you is two-fold. First, kudos to Doris Asher for a job well-done as our

previous President of the Mid- America Orchid Congress. Doris wore her presidential hat with aplomb and contributed so much to the operation and support of our Congress. She is also putting away another hat –as Chair of our Communications Committee. I am actively looking for a candidate to fill this position. If you are interested, please let me know!

Secondly, I am offering a challenge to members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress. Contrary to what many believe we are not a conclave of American Orchid Society judges that meet twice a year to discuss all aspects of judging orchids! Many of our active members are not American Orchid Society judges at all but people that love what we all do—orchids. My challenge is for you to recruit new attendees from your local societies and provide in-services at your local monthly meetings. Many of you are probably MAOC representatives for your local society. Tell them what we do! As an advocate, log on to our website at (midamericanorchids.org), read our mission/purpose in the constitution and familiarize yourself with what we stand for and offer our membership. We don't just offer you a judging schedule for your shows—a schedule that is, I might add, constantly being upgraded and revised by Lowell Jacks and our Show Schedule Committee. The Mid-America Orchid Congress offers something you don't get on the Internet, and that is comradery. We come together twice a year to see friends again and hopefully make new ones. Our website

provides a very informative historical perspective of the Mid-America Orchid Congress thanks to the hard work and dedication of Tom Harper. Just look at the size of the banquet at one of the congress meetings of the past! You would be surprised how much information regarding orchidology you can get by attending one of our meetings and shows that you will not get on the Internet. By attending a MAOC meeting I have personally learned many of the fine points of orchid culture and judged orchids I would never have seen at my local show.

Our Spring meeting will be hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and Miami Valley Orchid Society held in Cincinnati, OH, at the historic Netherland Hilton Hotel. The dates are March 19-20, 2016. These societies have hosted us before, and I expect another pleasant experience. More information concerning registration will be forthcoming. When you do register sign up for the Affiliated Societies Breakfast and plan on attending your business meeting on Sunday morning.

So get the message out there and form a car pool to Cincinnati this Spring. Hope to see you and greet new attendees.

Doug Hartong, President
Mid-America Orchid Congress
catmando@mindspring.com
770-594-7334

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS' **2015 ESSAY CONTEST**

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.

Similarly, the 2014 contest ("My Problem with Orchids Is (writer fills in the blank)") got eight entries, and those winning essays appeared in our December 2014 newsletter.

This year's contest had the topic: "My Most Exciting Orchid-Related Experience" and brought in four entries. The rules and prizes remain the same as for previous years. Thank you to the six judges who evaluated the essays for me. The winning writers for 2015 are: third prize: Patty Conrad, Greater Cleveland and West Shore Orchid Societies; second place goes to Cheryl LeBlanc, Curator, Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank, Ball State University, Muncie, IN; first place, Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota, for her entry entitled My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience - May 2005 Costa Rica, in which she recounts finding a Govenia ciliilabia, several samples of which are now permanent residents of Jardin Botanico Lankaster, Cartago, Costa Rica.

(Linda entered last year, too, and won our second place prize last year! Congratulations to her!)

All three winners are published at the conclusion of this edition of the The Mid-American.

Doris Asher, Chair
Communications Committee

Fall Business Meeting Minutes Draft **Naperville, IL September 27, 2015**

(NOTE: This is a draft subject to approval at the Fall Congress. Corrections should be sent to Cheryl Erins: cerins10812@comcast.net)

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 Martins and Tim Brooks for the lovely venue and all of their

work in preparing everything for this meeting of the Congress. In addition, Doris thanked the personnel of the Chicago Judging Center for providing the new “outreach” judging” for judging plants on Saturday. She remarked that attendance at the Business Meeting was good especially considering the small registration numbers.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Cheryl Erins



called the roll, and the following affiliated societies were present:

Alabama Orchid Society
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society
Batavia Orchid Society
Central Indiana Orchid Society
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
Greater Lansing Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society
Gulf Coast Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society
Ilowa Orchid Society

Illinois 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 Greater Kansas City
Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
Orchid Society of Minnesota
Orchid Society of the Ozarks
Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
South Metro Orchid Society
South Mississippi Orchid Society
Three Rivers Orchid Society
West Shore Ohio Orchid Society
Windsor Orchid Society

Absent:
Blue Grass Orchid Society
Central Iowa Orchid Society
Central Kentucky Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society
Central Ontario Orchid Society
Essex County (Ontario) Orchid Society
Grand Valley Orchid Society
Greater Akron Orchid Society
Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society
Lincoln NE Orchid Society
Little Egypt Orchid Society
London Orchid Society
Mansfield Orchid Society
Michiana Orchid Society
Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
Orchid Society/the Royal Botanic Garden
Peoria Orchid Society
Prairie State Orchid Society
Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
Paducah Orchid Society
Springfield MO Orchid Society
Wisconsin Orchid Society

Cheryl reminded everyone to sign-in for their society with their email addresses so we can assure delivery of minutes of the meeting. She announced a quorum was present. She also had copies of the minutes to the Spring meeting at the table for anyone who wanted one.

President Doris Asher then asked for any corrections to the minutes from the Spring meeting in Nashville, TN. The motion to approve the minutes as written was made and passed. The minutes will be posted on the website. Doris announced that at the judging on Saturday, September 26, 2015, one award, a CHM of 83 points was awarded to Russ Vernon for his *Cattleya maxima* semi alba 'La Pedrena' previously awarded in Japan. It was determined that since the petals and sepals were veined slightly, whether this was indeed a semi-alba and that SITF could confirm the identity of the orchid.

Treasurer Report - Treasurer Alexa Noel reported the Total Year to date (Sept 21, 2015) income of \$8528.99. Total Expenses to 9/21/2015 are \$9,820.35, which includes a conservation speaker (endowed) and the

Spring meeting loan which was reimbursed. Our total Net Worth is \$81,826.64 of which restricted funds is 40% (\$32,730.66) and 60% (\$49,095.98) is unrestricted. She mentioned a donation to the Conservation fund was made by Beth and Doug Martin. Donations in the memory of Dixie McCulloch by Doris Asher and the Cincinnati Judging Center were received. The seed money from Cincinnati had been paid back.

Alexa also reported that the funds are doing well, and that the Shirley Burr Moore fund has five to seven years remaining.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report passed and will be posted on the website with the minutes. (see Addendums 1-4 for full report).

Membership: - Alexa also noted that there are 29 societies unpaid this year and asked us to check after the meeting as to which ones and if we can help that process along. Little Egypt is in danger next year of being dropped due to non-payment.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Committee Reports:

Affiliated Societies: Chair Mary Beth Mansour



reported the Committee met on Sept. 25, 2015, with these members present: Doris Asher, Susan Wilson, and Jim Newsome. The Committee discussed the following items:

- The Committee will contact the 18 societies that have not paid the 2015 dues.
- The topic to be discussed at the 2016 Spring meeting will be "Communications: Empower your Society in the Electronic Age."
- Twenty-nine persons attended the Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. The topic of discussion was "Mentoring Members to Assume New Roles in your Society."
- All the suggestions and information will be in the upcoming The Mid-American.

A motion to accept the report passed.

AOS Liaison Report: Liaison Doris Asher - The Portland Orchid Society and the Cherry City Orchid Society co-hosted the AOS Members' Meeting in Portland April 29th – May 3rd. At this Portland meeting, the following personnel changes took place: These Mid-America judges were **promoted from Probationary to Accredited:**

Andre Couture (Toronto) and David Taylor (Mid-America).

This Mid-America judge was **promoted from Student to Probationary:** Carol Butcher (Toronto)

These Mid-America people became **students in the Judging system:** Helen Blythe-Hart (Atlanta), Jim France (Cincinnati), Sandra Marcos (Great Lakes), and John Wachsmuth (Chicago).

These Mid-America judges have become **senior judges:** Annette Bagby (Toronto), Dr. Craig Plahn (Mid-America), Dr. Diana Plahn (Mid-America).

These Mid-America judges were **granted leaves of absence:** Richard Bennett (student) (Great Lakes) Jan 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015, Donna Lipowicz (student) (Toronto) Mar 1, 2015 – Sep 30, 2015, Erich Michel (accredited) (Cincinnati) May 1, 2015-Apr 30, 2016, Andriananjanamanantsoa (Tahiana)

Notahianjanahary (student) (Toronto -- Montreal) Mar 1, 2015 – Feb 28, 2016.

One Mid-America judge has been **terminated for cause:** Paul Batz (probationary) (Toronto) With regret, we note the **death** of these Mid-America judges: Judy Adams (retired) (Toronto), Dixie McCulloch (retired) (Cincinnati), and Dr. Richard Wagner (accredited) Great Lakes.

She reported that a recent AOS news item is of interest: the AOS announced last month that it is providing public access to the 30 most recent orchid awards and photos on the website. One does not have to be an AOS member in order to access this material.

The fall AOS Members' Meeting will be in Reno, NV, November 11-15, hosted by the Orchid Society of Northern Nevada.

A motion to accept her report passed.

Annual Meeting: Beth Martin thanked everyone, Cheryl Erins, Lois Cinert for being boots on the ground helping with this hotel site, restaurants and logistics, along with Tim Brooks for his



assistance on the registration. The next meeting is in Cincinnati, Ohio hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society, to be held at a magnificent hotel site downtown, March 19 and 20, 2016. No banquet is scheduled for this meeting as there was a desire for all registrants to eat at ORCHIDS, a famous restaurant. The speakers will be Francisco Miranda, Leo Glicenstein, and Peter Lin. The room rate was set for \$99. The site should be up shortly. Beth also announced that we have accepted the invitation of the West Shore Orchid Society to host the Congress in April, 2018.

Beth invited Susan Charles, VP of the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society who has invited the MAOC to come to Buffalo, NY, November 11-13, 2016, to tell the audience about the society and the venue planned for this event. The Botanic Gardens, under renovation should be completed and Beth reported that she and Doug had visited them this summer to view the gardens and the venues. Doug mentioned the orchid conservatory in Buffalo that is cared for entirely by the Niagara Frontier Society. Aileen Garrison mentioned that this is close to the Toronto Judging Center.

Beth said there are no invitations for 2017 as yet and if anyone wants to discuss, to please call her. Motion to accept her report passed.

Audit: The audit committee did not meet at this event.

Awards: Jan Yates, filling in for Chair Christine Chowning, reported that since there was no orchid show at this meeting that there was no need for awards.

Budget: Janice Yates reported the Committee met on 9/27/15 and notes that no other projected changes are expected and will be on target for this year. More work will be ahead with the new Treasurer and the projections for 2016.



Communications: Chair Doris Asher reported that the three main activities are 1. The Newsletter the Mid-American. 2. The Congress website, and 3. The annual Essay contest. She mentioned that Susan and Charles Wilson became the newsletter editors in the spring of 2014. There are 180 email recipients of the newsletter. She thanked Janice Yates and Lynn O'Shaughnessy for their photographs. She thanked the Secretary who works with the editors to avoid duplication in the newsletter. She asked that if people have comments and ideas for the website, to let Brian Spitzer, webmaster, know.

She gave a brief history of the essay contest, with the prizes at \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place, and \$25 for 3rd place. Two entries were received for 2012, and 2013 fared better, and 2014 had eight entries. This year's topic "My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience" brought just four entries. She thanked the judges who helped evaluate the essays. This year's winners are: 3rd Place Patty Conrad of the Greater Cleveland and West Shore Orchid Societies, 2nd place to Cheryl LeBlanc, from the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank, Ball State University, Muncie, IN., and 1st place Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota for her entry, My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience –May 2005 in Costa Rica in which she recounts finding a Govenia ciliilabia, several samples of which are now permanent residents of the Jardin Botanico Lankaster, Cartago, Costa Rica. Doris mentioned that Linda won 2nd place last yr.

Doris reported that since she will be on the Nominating Committee and the AOS Liaison, this is her last year to chair the communications committee. She asked the incoming President to choose another chair.

Committee members are Jeanne Rhinehart, Brian Spitzer, Mark van der Woerd, Charles and Susan Wilson.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Conservation: Chair Russ Vernon, reported from the Committee's Friday meeting that last year there were grants of \$400 each to the Cleveland Botanic Garden, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species

Bank at Ball State University. The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society requested a grant to map out orchid species in a state preserve, hand pollinate flowers and harvest small quantities of seed to grow and repopulate existing colonies and establish new colonies. The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society has acquired Cypripedium species plants, planted them in pots and will commit them to a native orchid garden at the botanical garden where they meet and maintain the orchid collection. Russ mentioned that several committee members now work with the grantees. Mark van der Woerd works with the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection, Glenn Evans with the Niagara Frontier Society, and the Wilsons work with the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Doug Martin is investigating the possibility of supporting the Ceiba Foundation which is working with natural habitat in Ecuador, if membership approves, and it did so, and will receive a \$400.00 grant. Doug Martin mentioned that this is a foreign grant, and Alexa stated that there is money to cover it, and Janice Yates said we can amend the budget to incorporate this expense.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Constitution and By-laws: Chair Charles Wilson reported that, in the absence of any requests for Constitution and By-laws changes, there is no action at this time.

Education and Research: Chair Doug Hartong reported that he and Cheryl Erins met on Friday night and that while there are projects to be worked on, there is no progress report at this time.

Historical: Chair Lois Holmes reported no one had ever discussed the history of the “hats.” Lois Presidential hat was the same gold crown worn by her predecessor, Annalee Boyett. She talked about the possibility of that book of well-known orchidists in Mid-America and asked for submissions.

Orchidist of the Year: Lowell Jacks



announced that this year's winner of the award is Alexa Noel for all her contributions to the MAOC and the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society. Alexa thanked everyone.



Congratulations to Alexa!

Show Schedule: Lois Cinert and Hermann



Pigors met on Friday evening and reporting that the new show schedule has been favorably accepted by societies despite many questions on Vanda reclassifications based on recent taxonomy changes. Lois reminded all societies they can modify the schedule as their shows warrant.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Technology: In the absence of an official report, President Doris Asher noted that Chair Brian Spitler will be getting back to updating our website and completing other projects.

Ways and Means: Alexa reported for Roberta Ginavan that the donations totaled \$2130 and the auction likely would come in around \$1500 which was very good considering the lower attendance.

Motion to accept the report passed.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Doris asked Aileen Garrison to present. Aileen Garrison chaired the nominating committee, whose members were Doug Martin, Judy Neagle, Mark van der Woerd, and Russ Vernon, and reported the slate of officers for 2016 are:

President	Doug Hartong
First Vice President	Jim Newsome
Second Vice President	Alexa Noel
Secretary	Cheryl Erins
Treasurer	Michele Little

The report was accepted and the slate of officer's motion was accepted and passed.

Aileen's husband helped her create the hat for our new President which is a safari hat covered in buttons and stickers, with the pills representing the pharmacy profession in which Doug works. Doug thanked all for their support and thanked Aileen specifically for the “cool hat.”

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully submitted:
Cheryl Erins, Secretary

REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED ORCHID SOCIETIES

The “Windy City” treated the Mid-America Orchid Congress very hospitably when we met in Naperville in late September. Deep blue skies, bright sun, gentle breezes and temperatures in the upper 70’s – one could not ask for nicer weather. The Congress, under the skilled direction of our Annual Meeting Committee (Beth and Doug Martin and Tim Brooks), did something unique in the Congress’ long history -- the meeting coincided with the Chicagoland Orchid Festival. There was no orchid show, no panel of speakers, and no banquet. The Chicagoland Orchid Festival is held at two commercial greenhouses, Orchids by Hausermann and Natt’s Orchids. The Conference hotel, the Chicago Marriott Naperville, hosted all of the Congress’s activities. The Hotel is located between the two greenhouses, about 25 minutes from Hausermann’s and 10 minutes from Natt’s, and the MAOC provided transportation to both on Saturday. Registrants shopped for orchids from a vast array of plants for sale by “guest growers”.

One visitor from the Greater Lansing Orchid Society describes her experience at the Chicagoland Orchid Festival:
“Orchid shopper’s paradise!”

Natt’s Orchids in Naperville had a wonderful selection. I think anything that New Vision Orchids had that was out-of-the ordinary, is in the collection of me and my two traveling companions, since we were the first to shop him. Ten Shin had a lot of good choices of not-so-available plants in the states. Also at Natt’s: Alex Challis of Ann Arbor, MI.

If you are into Phals or Catts, Hausermann’s Orchids in Villa Park, IL, was the place, though they had a nice selection of other things, too.

But by the time I visited Ecuagenera and Fox Valley, I was out of funds, so I only got a little *Tolumnia* from Hausermann’s. Ecuagenera had a lot of cool-growing plants, but they also had an abundance of intermediate to warm, so I came home with several nice plants from them (plus my pre-order). There was another vendor there (the Orchid Trading Co. of the Chicago area), but I only looked briefly.

The Chicagoland Orchid Festival certainly met my expectations!”

After conducting several of our committee meetings on Friday night, about a dozen of us boarded a yellow school bus Saturday morning to visit Hausermann’s. It was a very good thing that the bus capacity was about 55 people because we filled it up with orchids on the return trip!

Since this meeting of the Congress was not associated with an orchid show, the leadership of the Congress requested a new American Orchid Society service of the personnel of the Chicago Judging Center, an “outreach judging”. This is an event where official AOS judging takes place NOT at an orchid show, maybe at a meeting of a local orchid society. In this case, Jim Spatzek chaired AOS judging at noon on Saturday at the Chicago Marriott Naperville; 27 judges participated, evaluating nine orchids.

Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids got a CHM of 83 points on his *Cattleya maxima* ‘La Pedrena’ SM/JOGA, previously awarded also a Silver Medal in Japan. His beautiful *Cattleya* was unusual in being a semialba variety of maxima.



After the AOS judging, the school bus left the Hotel again, this time for a couple hours shopping at Natt's, while others of us prepared the very successful auction. The event with auctioneer Doug Martin got a good crowd who



were very generous with their wallets and checkbooks – the auction raised more than \$2,100! AND we really enjoyed ourselves! Instead of the standard banquet, the Annual Meeting Committee arranged for a delightful “pizza party” with three varieties of delicious pizza, salad, and cookies – AND the cash bar – yes! A guest speaker – Joe Meisel, gave an inspired and inspiring talk about his work over the past fifteen years at the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve in Ecuador. This endeavor is part of the work of the Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Madison WI. Dr Meisel is vice-president and founder of the Foundation. He also has a 2014 book: Orchids of Tropical America. At Sunday’s Business Meeting, the Congress voted to grant the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve \$400 to continue their vital work.

Twenty-nine people attended the Sunday morning Affiliated Societies Committee Breakfast at which we discussed “Mentoring Members to Assume New Roles Within Your Society”. Committee Chair Mary Beth Mansour led the discussion trying to involve everyone. We were attempting to find solutions to the perennial problem of getting society members to work for the society. Although representatives from numerous societies answered randomly, comments could be sorted into two main categories:

- Make members feel welcome and needed

- Personal greeting – several societies emphasized the importance of the personal touch
- Society membership is aging; it is a challenge to get young people to join; they tend to be very web oriented; making them feel welcome/needed is vital
- Beginners Group – Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society finds this group very effective; give door prizes at each meeting; new members meet socially in each other’s homes
- Give raffle tickets and divisions to new members and guests
- In forming committees, inclusiveness is important – there is a tendency to choose only friends to serve on one’s committee
- Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City – try to match member’s skill set with the task to be done
- Encourage participation
 - Important to try to avoid one hardworking member trying to “do it all”
 - Encourage new members to set up displays
 - Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City recommends soliciting volunteers in a one-on-one personal conversation
 - Members set up display of show table plants
 - List volunteer opportunities with space to check on membership form
 - Memphis Orchid Society suggested forming committees with 2-3 members for various show functions – “grows” future leaders
 - Write job description of every officer, show committee person etc. (Include contact person); Memphis Orchid Society emphasized the importance of including “why” in such a document

- Financially compensate (fuel/hotel) volunteer to set up out-of-town exhibit – several societies reported helping with travel expenses – amounts of compensation vary greatly
- For out-of-town exhibits some societies share the work by having one person do the setup; different person bring the exhibit home
- If society is a 501c3 organization, people setting up out-of-town exhibit for the society can deduct their expenses on federal income tax return
- Check society web-site: post name of contact with phone number or email – this is helpful both to the Mid-America and also to local orchid societies to advertise their activities and to recruit new members

After the Sunday morning Business Meeting of the Congress (see the Minutes of this meeting appearing elsewhere in this newsletter for details), several of us enjoyed Sunday afternoon at Natt's Greenhouses, also in Naperville.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Here's a travel idea: attend the Paph Guild Seminar, coming up January 16-17, 2016, in Santa Barbara, CA. For more information, check out the website: <http://www.orchiddigest.org/paph-guild-2016.html>

NEXT MEETING: The spring meeting of the Congress will be in at the historic Netherland Hilton Hotel in Cincinnati, OH, hosted jointly by the greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society, March 19-20, 2016. The Hotel is an updated French Art Deco masterpiece and National Historic Landmark within the Carew Tower complex and adjacent to the city's famed Fountain Square. Its restaurant, believe it or not, is called Orchids! We hope you will attend the Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday morning, March 20th. We will discuss "Communications: Empower your

Society in the Electronic Age." We hope to address questions such as: How is your society employing electronic media to communicate to your society members, recruit new members; publicize shows and other activities of the society, handle registration for shows? Join us!

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	Mbmansour1@cox.net
Doris Asher	asherdoris@juno.com
Roberta Ginavan	ginavan@verizon.net
Jim Newsome	jnews91126@aol.com
Judith Rapacz	jorapacz@wisc.edu
Susan Wilson	susanwilsonrn@gmail.com

In Memorium: MAOC Loses DIXIE McCULLOCH

On July 19, 2015, Dixie McCulloch died at the age of 84. She and her husband Jim were long-time supporters of and participants in the Mid-America Orchid Congress.



They received the Congress' prestigious "Orchidist of the Year" award in the fall of 2010. In addition, Dixie was active in the Kentucky Orchid Society and the Cincinnati Judging Center, where she served as a very effective training coordinator. Her judging colleague Alexa Noel writes: "This morning we received word that our dear friend (and my mentor) Dixie McCulloch died. She served as a judge for many years, particularly as training coordinator and mentor to me and others... When I attended her memorial service, the pictures and tributes really underscored how much she loved the friends she made in the orchid world. There were pictures from her home society, MAOC and the judging centers that she worked with through the years." Jim wrote that Dixie often

took her mind to her “Happy Place” as she struggled in recent years with increasingly poor health; the two of them spent many vacations in Hawaii where Dixie loved to listen to the ocean and watch the whales – she called this her happy place.

From Hermann Pigors: “Dixie was one of those many orchid growers and persons who helped make America the foremost orchid country on our globe. I am grateful for Dixie, her family, the Kentucky Orchid Society and all her friends who shared her interests and devotion.”

Doris Asher is the happy owner of one of Dixie’s fabric paintings: a director’s chair beautifully decorated with a purple *Masdevallia* – a purchase at a Mid-America auction years ago, which will now be cherished even more. Jim would love to know of others who have a piece of Dixie’s artwork; kindly let him know at jimlou@aol.com.

The MAOC extends sincere condolences to Jim, their children, and grandchildren in this great loss. As Jim wrote: “I like to think that she is now in her ‘Happy Place’.”

Doris Asher

MAOC 2015 Essay Winners



Third Place: Patty Conrad, Greater Cleveland and West Shore Orchid Societies

My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience -

I’m sure everyone has had a similar experience to mine, especially those of us who have gotten “orchid mania” over the years, and can’t quite

seem to stop buying that one last exotic orchid. My tale begins a couple of years ago when a *Paphiopedilum* mania seized me. I was at an orchid show in Cleveland Ohio ... and there it was... in full bloom...*Paphiopedilum Chiu Hua Dancer* (*P. gigantifolium* x *P. sanderianum*) with its two long, spiraling, lateral sepals. I had never seen any orchid quite like it. (I was a fairly new customer to the orchid market then). I had never imagined an orchid so regal. I just had to have it...and, lo and behold, look! The vendor had one in bud so I can buy it and thus enjoy its bloom over a longer period of time once it opens. I rapidly handed over \$75; the most I had ever spent on an orchid to date. I took it home and positioned it in a place of honor in my four-season room. Now to look at and admire it every day as I began the wait until the bud opened. Such anticipation! I went to bed having happy thoughts and the next morning entered the room and began to water my other orchids. As I was reaching up to a *Vanda* hanging near the ceiling, I heard a snap, and looked down. And, oh no! I had inadvertently bumped into and broken off the flower stalk of the Chiu Hua Dancer. I couldn’t believe what had just happened, and I was so distraught that I started screaming. And when I say screaming, I mean blood curdling, at the top of my lungs, screams. I was inconsolable and called one of my orchid friends to have her commiserate with me. And as I told her at the end of my story “this just proves that my neighbors do not want to get involved at any cost with their neighbors, because at the volume and intensity of my screams one would have thought intruders were stabbing me to death. Yet not one of my neighbors came running to see what was happening to me.”

As I said at the beginning of this tale of woe, this happened to me a couple of years ago, and that blasted orchid has never had a bud on it since! I have now vowed not to buy any more Paphs until this one bloom again. However, this experience and vow has not stopped me from buying other, and some even more expensive, orchids.

Second Place: Cheryl LeBlanc, Curator, Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank, Ball State University

My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience -

I was too young to remember details, but the impact of my discovery has been life-long. At the age of nine, I frequently spent long hours exploring the outdoors. The freedom, fresh air and thrill of discovery were intoxicating. One of my favorite things to do was (and is) to wander the woods, enjoying, listening, and observing. My mother grew house plants and with my father, grew a very productive vegetable garden. Surrounded by plants, my outdoor excursions naturally leaned toward the botanical. I loved the thrill of finding something new.

I grew up in a rural area in southeastern Massachusetts, in a wooded area with abundant scattered bogs and swamps. As soon as springtime eased the grip of winter and green sprouts began to appear, I would head outside. Imagine the circuitous wanderings of "Billy" in the comic strip "Family Circus" and you'll get the right idea. At the very edge of our property, what seemed to be a tremendous distance from the homestead, I discovered a commercial cranberry bog. The bog itself held little botanical interest, but the surrounding area was different, with a variety of ferns, princess pine, and other woodland wildflowers. Somehow, I recognized this; I would come to learn these differences are ecologically based, but at that age, I was more driven by the 'what' than the 'why'. I returned to this area by a new path almost every time. This particular outing must have been late June, since I don't recall the usual onslaught of pesky black flies. Or maybe it was that the discovery was so exciting that all other less-significant memories have faded away. I remember finding a strange pink pouch-shaped flower at the edges of the piney woods! It was different from any flower I'd ever seen before, and would forever capture my heart. I literally ran back to the house, eager to share the discovery and most of all, pour through my mother's books to learn more about what I had found! It was none other than the moccasin flower, also known as the pink lady slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*. On literally every outing

since that day, regardless of the location, I would search for these plants. I was thrilled to find them in Maine, where my family would vacation, and ultimately, as I learned more about lady slippers, and discovered their diversity, I would eventually find other native orchid species nearly everywhere I hiked. Once aware of their protected status, lady slippers became even more special to me, ultimately driving my college education, and my career: I studied and inventoried a wetland site in upstate New York, became a plant ecologist, contributed illustrations in "Orchids of Indiana" and eventually, curator of the largest collegiate orchid collection in North America, Ball State University's Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank. Today, even though surrounded by thousands of tropical orchid species, when asked to choose my favorite orchid, I always, always reply "Pink Lady slipper". And my heart still sings, whenever I find them in the wild!

First Place: Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota

My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience - May 2005 Costa Rica

Woo-hoo! I was so new at this orchid thing that I couldn't have found an orchid *in situ* if you'd dropped me in a field of them. But I was enthusiastic and traveling through Costa Rica with a group of well-seasoned orchidists. We'd spent several days trekking through various different environments, enjoying the days of new sights and sounds, followed by evenings of orchid tales and camaraderie. And so it was that I found myself wandering along the river near Savegre de Montana Lodge. What a wondrous place and so much to see and do! Not even the rain could dampen my spirits. Then, out of the corner of my eye, something flowering on the ground. Something I'd never seen before and had no idea what it might be. Luckily, the digital camera was able to capture the image and I continued merrily on my way, exploring as I went. Upon return to the Lodge, I showed my find to my group, who had wisely sought refuge from the rain inside, comforting themselves with adult beverages. The drinks, however, were soon put down as Rod Knowles and Russ

Tyler, the chief orchid gurus amongst the group, declared that yes, indeed, this plant just might be an orchid!

Needless to say, off we went, through the rain, nothing would deter us. Even though Russ had to traverse the VERY narrow, VERY wet, VERY swinging bridge across the river to get to the other side, we soldiered on, Russ just as excited, albeit a bit more terrified, as the rest of the group. Up and down the riverbank we went, searching for the elusive plant that had just been there a few hours before, but was now well-hidden. Not even my photographic memory could help me in this hunt. Finally, success as Russ was found leaning on a rail right near the site of the plants. Wow! Something none in the group had ever seen, but were able to declare an orchid based on their extensive knowledge and experience. A later trip would find Rod and Russ returning to the site with local experts to take samples and examine the plant under magnification. What was it? Was it a new discovery? Was it something endemic to this area? After careful examination, the plant was determined to be a *Govenia ciliilabia*.

Sometimes epiphytic, but terrestrial in this area. How exciting to find something that had not yet been seen in Costa Rica and, even better, to know that samples of it have since been potted up and made permanent residents of Jardin Botanico Lankaster for all who travel there to see and enjoy! Just goes to show, even a true novice can find a treasure out there in the wilderness, if only you keep your eyes open to the possibilities!

(Editors' Note: Budget Addenda 1-4 follow this page.)

Parting Shot:

The back side of President Doug's helmet of office is equally impressive!



KEY MID-AMERICA CONTACTS

OFFICERS

President: Doug Hartong
770-594-7334;
catmando@mindspring.com
1st Vice President: Jim Newsome
503-3522 (cell); jnews91126@aol.com
2nd Vice President: Alexa Noel
513-469-8767; alexa.h.noel@gmail.com
Secretary: Cheryl Erins; 269-244-5256;
cerins10812@comcast.net
Treasurer: Michele Little; 513-320-3409;
MLittle@DaytonFreight.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; bethdougm@kc.rr.com
Audit: Judith Rapacz
239-223-5540; jorapacz@wisc.edu
Awards: Christine Chowning; 859-278-5256
c.chowning@insight.bb.com
Budget: Janice Yates
513-475-9771; jiyates11@earthlink.net
Constitution & Bylaws: Charles Wilson
901-268-1445; 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
MAOC Newsletter: Charles & Susan Wilson
[\(901268-1445\)](mailto:zooemeritus@gmail.com)
SusanWilsonRN@gmail.com,
(901-606-9454)
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 Spitzer
publicationschair@cincinnatiorchids.org
Ways and Means: Roberta Ginavan
712-487-3085; ginavan@frontier.com

Addendum 1

September 2015 Treasurer's Report
Income and Expense 1/1/2015 – 9/21/2015

Income		
Category	Budgeted	Actual
Auction Income		
Spring	1500.00	3945.32
Fall	2500.00	
Investment Income	50.00	
Donations/Honoraria	600.00	100.00* 100.00 ** 250.00***
Meeting Income	3000.00	Spring Meeting Hosted
Show Tags	250.00	120.00
Society Dues	1500.00	1375.67
Loan Repayment	2500.00	2500.00
Book Change Donated	0.00	125.00
CD	0.00	13.00
Income YTD	11900.00	8528.99

Expenses

PNC Checking	13967.58
PNC Money Market	35347.95
PNC CD #1	5392.20
PNC CD #2	6510.24
BMO Harris Savings	0.00
BMO Harris Checking	0.00
BMO Harris CD#1	6335.20
BMO Harris CD#2	13460.25
UBS	0.00
Total Net Worth	81826.64

* Donation to Conservation Speaker's Fund from Beth
and Doug Martin

** In Memory of Dixie McCulloch from Doris Asher

*** In Memory of Dixie McCulloch from Cincinnati
AOS Judging Center

Addendum 2

MAOC Net Worth
September 2015

Restricted funds	32730.66	40%
Unrestricted funds	49095.98	60%

Addendum 3

Unpaid Dues:

- Batavia
- Central Indiana
- Central Ontario
- Central Ohio
- Grand Valley
- Cleveland
- Heart of Dixie
- Kentucky
- Kingwood
- Little Egypt 2014 & 2015
- Lincoln
- Michiana
- Niagara Frontier
- Northland
- Kansas City
- Royal Botanic
- Ozarks
- Springfield
- Three Rivers
- Wisconsin

Addendum 4

Of this Budget, approximately \$2750.00 represents expenses supported by endowed funds and \$6275.00 are expenses paid from general revenue.

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Bank Charges	25.00	0.00
Conservation Grants	2000.00	1284.81
Conservation Speaker	750.00	750.00
Filing Fee-Ohio	50.00	50.00
Judging Center Support	900.00	900.00
Insurance	550.00	0.00
Show Expense	3000.00	0.00
Loan 2015	2500.00	2500.00
Officer Expense	100.00	85.19
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker	1500.00	0.00
Trophies	550.00	250.35
Loan 2016	0.00	2500.00
Expenses not Budgeted		
Auction Hosts Share S		1500.00
Total Expenses	11925.00	9820.35
Total YTD		- 1291.36

Income	
Auction 9net after sharing 50% with host societies	
Spring hosted by GCOS/MVOS	\$ 1500.00
Fall (hosted by Niagara OS	\$ 1500.00
Donations and honoraria	\$ 600.00
Investment Income	\$ 50.00
MAOC loan repayment	\$ 5000.00
GCOS/MVOS \$2500.00 from 2015 loan	
Niagara OS \$2500.00 if sought)	
Show Tags	\$ 250.00
Society Dues	\$ 1500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,400.00
Expenses	
Bank Charges	\$ 50.00
Conservation Grants	\$2000.00
Conservation Speaker	\$ 750.00
Filing Fee (State of Ohio for non-profits)	\$ 50.00
Judging Center Support	\$ 900.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 550.00
MAOC Loan to hosting society if sought	\$2500.00
MAOC Newsletter	\$ 100.00
Officer Expenses	\$ 100.00
Shirley Burr Moore Fund (\$750 for national speaker \$1500.00 for International Speaker	\$1500.00 E
Trophies (all but one endowed)	\$ 550.00 E
Web Site Development	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,025.00

MAOC 2016 Budget Approved Sept 27, 2015

