



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress Winter 2023

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From President Cheryl Erins

Cheryl Erins, MAOC President

Is it spring yet? We have hit the motherload of changeable weather, haven't we? From 60s in December to -20 just amazing. Speaking of weather, our friends in Buffalo have suffered catastrophic losses in their orchid collection. Just when everything was coming together the storm of the century wiped them out. Gale force winds shattered the dome, and the orchids froze. They have lost about half to 60 per cent of the collection, mostly species. Even if the alarms were on, no one could go anywhere for days as you saw on TV. They are asking for donations of plants that perhaps are duplicates or ones that you might like to just donate. If you have some, please contact Donna Lipowicz and she will make arrangements. I don't know if the glass has been repaired yet, but she can tell you. Her phone number is 716-479-7698 and her email is lady Sliper@roadrunner.com. Thank you



Ctsm. Joseito's Dark Phoenix 'Lemon Truffle' AM/AOS (84 points), owner Jeanne Kaeding, Rochester, NY

Your officers and Board are thankful for the opportunity to get together again as we did in Dayton in August. Our societies are beginning to emerge from the pandemic and meet again. The one benefit of the pandemic was the ability to have meetings with our societies on Zoom or Go To Meeting. At least we can be thankful for that opportunity to meet friends even if online. We also give thanks to remember two of our own who have recently passed, but whose legacy will be felt for many years to come. Ed Mansour along with his wife MaryBeth, was a fixture at our shows as well as Wayne Roberts, a vendor that came to our shows in the Midwest. We send our thoughts and prayers to their families. On another note, if any of you have any historical documentation from the MAOC about our awards history, please contact Jeanne Rhinehart. We are looking to create a historical document on the web page to celebrate and commemorate the wonderful people for whom we named our awards.

We are busy meeting every month to make sure that your MAOC continues to thrive. Why join? Visit our midamericanorchids.org website and there is a whole host of reasons to be a part of MAOC. Do you need speakers? Do you need ideas for programs? It is all there for you to use ...part of your dues to MAOC. We have several folks who are willing to do zoom type meetings if you like. Take advantage of all we have to offer. We will have the MAOC combined meeting with the Ohio Orchid Societies in August again. IT is a fantastic show, an opportunity to meet other enthusiasts and share fun, food and prizes. What else can we do for you? What do you need us to do for you? Let me know. You can reach me at cerins10812@comcast.net or my cell 630-772-0732. Join us for the next Affiliated Society meeting which is coming up on zoom soon.

We are thankful for a successful Orchid Fest in Dayton, Ohio and are looking forward to the next one, the last week of August 2023. Any suggestions as to how to make this meeting/show more appealing to you as a society?? We hope that many of you attended. We value your opinions. We are working to make the MAOC responsive to you, our members. Other ideas or suggestions are most welcome. You can email me, cerins10812@comcast.net or any other board member. Would you like a webinar in the winter? If so, please send suggestions.

You know, we cannot do it without you. We need some folks to join our committees. It is fun, not much time commitment either. We have room for you!! It would be nice as they say, to have some new blood, bring in some new ideas and thoughts. Email me if you have someone interested. In short, the MAOC exists to provide you with the information from around the Midwest and East, to share information between societies to help you run a better society. Let us know how we can help!

Our love of orchids brings us together; let's talk soon.

Cheryl Erins, MAOC President

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest and Mid America Orchid Congress August 25-27, 2023



Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on the third annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest and Mid America Orchid Congress August 25-27, 2023. Planning is underway to create another fun filled and education packed weekend with lots of orchids to take home for your collection. Come for the weekend and see old friends and make new ones, enjoy some good food and spend a great weekend in Dayton, Ohio! Keep an eye out on the website, www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com for details and registration information. - Eric Sauer

Historic Buffalo Botanical Gardens Orchid Collection Loss

Well Buffalo is in the news again for our unbelievable weather. As you all probably have heard we had a Blizzard over Christmas weekend with hurricane force winds of 74 mph. The storm began on Friday morning Dec 23rd with the worst wind gusts, it continued through Saturday into Sunday Christmas day. While no one was able to get to our Botanical Gardens until Monday Dec 26, that is when it was discovered that 5 panes of glass in the orchid house roof had been blown out, with the broken glass being found 40 feet away from the hole in the roof. My guess is that the greenhouse was open to cold from Friday until Monday when the glass was repaired. I received an email with pictures and a heads up before we were allowed in on the following Friday to see the damage. My volunteers and I were sickened when we entered the greenhouse and seen our collection with extensive cold damage. We have worked for a year and a half to bring the collection back from the neglect of the pandemic where we were not allowed in for 15 months. The collection was looking the best it had in twenty years I have been volunteering with the orchids. My posts on social media have seen reactions from orchid people around the world, and many willing to help us rebuild the collection which has been extremely heartwarming for NFOS. Orchid friends are planning on sending gift certificates, cash donations and plant divisions to us. We are extremely grateful and touched at the outpouring of the Orchid World. For anyone wishing to help us out please forward donations to Buffalo Botanical Gardens Orchid Collection 2655 South Park Ave. Buffalo NY 14218. Some photos of the collection show we lost all our species Cattleya's and Paphs along with all our Phals. Thanks to all of you that are thinking of us and sharing our sorrow.



Show Tag Change

For those societies using show tags ordered from MAOC, there is a change. Email Lois Cinert at george.cinert@att.net with requests and send checks to Jeanne Rhinehart, 6222 Le Roy Place, Cincinnati, OH 45230. Price is still \$35 for 1000 tags.



Report of the 2022 Ohio Valley Orchid Fest August 27-28

Eric Sauer

The Mid America Annual Meeting was held in Dayton, Ohio at the 2022 Ohio Valley Orchid Fest in August. There were approximately 85 registrants that attended and about 2,000 people that stopped in during the weekend to see the show, shop at a dozen vendors and have some great food at one of the several food trucks. MAOC provided three \$500 scholarships that allowed members from three societies to send members including the Alabama Orchid Society, the Greater Akron Orchid Society and Greater Omaha Orchid Society. A very well attended annual meeting was conducted on Sunday morning along with a wonderful silent and live auction Saturday. A Kokedama station was also set up by MAOC to sell kits to make orchids and other plants into these wonderful moss planting balls. Nine AOS awards were granted at the show as well.

A post event survey was sent out to attendees, the most popular aspects of the event were 1. Vendors, 2. The orchids and judging, 3. Reconnecting with friends. Lots of suggestions and feedback was received to make improvements to the **2023 Orchid Fest which will be held August 25-27th, 2023.**

OVOF Awarded Orchids – MAOC, MVOS, & GCOS



Paphiopedilum Dark Child 'Howard P. Martin' AM/AOS,
owner Howard P. Martin, Niagara/Frontier OS
Fox Valley Best Cypripedium MAOC



Masdevallia Golden Sun, owner Ann DePrez, Louisville, KY
F L Stevenson Best Pleurothallid MAOC



Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS, owner Dave Miller,
Greater Akron OS
Henry and Lois Holmes Best Oncidium MAOC



Paphiopedilum Dark Child 'Howard P. Martin' AM/AOS,
owner Howard P. Martin, Niagara/Frontier OS
Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen MAOC



Phragmipedium Noirmont 'Mary Ann Sauer' AM/AOS,
owner Eric Sauer, MVOS
Gastright Best Cypripedium Alliance GCOS



Stanhopea wardii, owner Wayne Roberts,
Cleveland/ West Shore OS
Wolf Memorial Trophy Outstanding Specimen Plant GCOS



Vanda Jairak Brown, owner Natts Orchids
Stan Better Best Vanda MVOS



Brassavola fragrans, owner Windswept in Time
Betty Forker Best Cattleya Alliance GCOS



Masdevallia Golden Sun, owner Ann DePrez, Louisville, KY
Pat June Best Miscellaneous MVOS



Pabstiella tripterantha 'River Valley' CCM/AOS, owner
Eric Sauer, MVOS AI May Best Pleurothallid MVOS



Paphiopedilum Dark Child 'Howard P. Martin' AM/AOS,
owner Howard P. Martin, Niagara Frontier OS
Don Walklet Best Slipper Orchid MVOS



Cattleya maxima, owner Oak Knob Orchids, KOS
Jim Bailey Best Cattleya MVOS



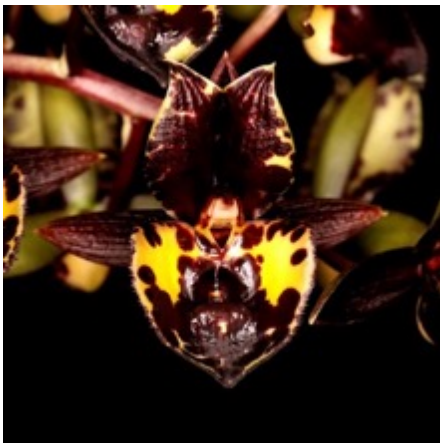
Phalaenopsis Kenneth Schubert,
owner Chester Kieliszek West Shore OS
Tom Cox Best Phalaenopsis MVOS



Gomenkoa Golden Arches 'Dark Mountain Gold'
HCC/AOS, owner Jeanne Kaeding, Rochester NY
Clifford and Vivian Walters Best Oncidium Alliance
MAOC

Photos by Eric Sauer

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest AOS Awards



Catasetum Joseito's Dark Phoenix 'Lemon
Truffle' AM 84 Exhibitor Jeanne Kaeding,
photographer Ed Cott



Gomenkoa Golden Arches 'Dark Mountain Gold' HCC
77 Exhibitor Jeanne Kaeding Photographer Ed Cott



Habenaria Kat's Whiskers 'Windswept's
Whiskers' AM 81 Exhibitor Windswept in Time
Orchids Photographer Ed Cott



Maxillaria marginata 'River Valley' HCC 78
Owner Eric Sauer Photographer Ed Cott



Pabstiella tripterantha 'River Valley' CCM 83
Owner Eric Sauer Photographer Ed Cott



Paphiopedilum Hung Sheng Venus 'Oakwood's
Chestnut' AM 81 Owner Oakwood Orchids
photographer Ed Cott



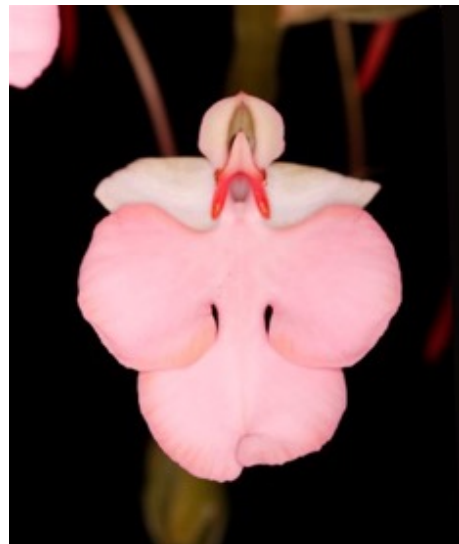
Paphiopedilum Carolyn Butcher 'Shocking Pink'
HCC 79 Owner Dave Miller Photographer Ed
Cott



Paphiopedilum Dark Child 'Howard P. Martin' AM 82
Owner Howard P. Martin Photographer Ed Cott



Habenaria medioflexa 'Windswept' AM 81



Habenaria Regnierii 'Windswept's Beauty' AM 82

Winners of the MAOC \$500 Scholarships for the 2022 Orchid Fest and MAOC Meeting



Bev Vonderpool and Dayle Brooks attended the 2022 Ohio Valley Orchid Fest and MAOC Congress Meetings as grateful recipients sharing their MAOC \$500 Scholarship. They represented the Alabama Orchid Society and the Northeast Alabama Orchid Society. Other scholarship recipients were the Greater Omaha Orchid Society and the Greater Akron Orchid Society

Orchidist of the Year – Donna Lipowicz

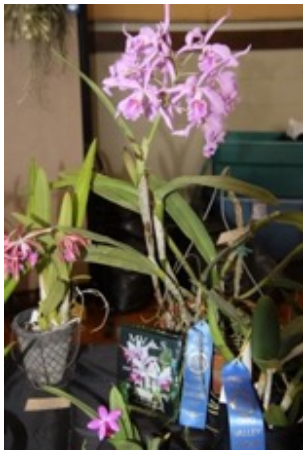
Doug Hartong presents Orchidist of the year award to Donna Lipowicz

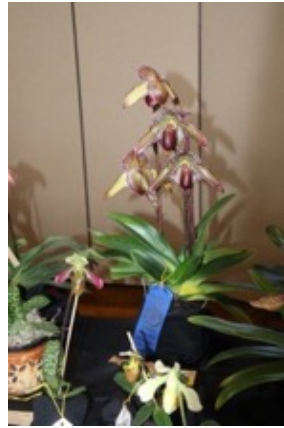




Kokedama, made by attendees, with a kit and guidance from Donna Lipowicz. Essentially a ball of moss and media securely surrounding a plant's roots, they make an attractive presentation.

Additional OVOF photos





From The Archives: Ray McCullough

Jan Yates

If you attended Orchidfest in Dayton or other MAOC Congresses in earlier years, you may have noticed plaques awarded to outstanding specimen plants – such as the FL Stevenson Award for pleurothallids or the Raymond McCullough Award for Epidendrums/Encyclias. These named trophies honor individuals who contributed to the growth of the MAOC, its member societies and the judging centers in its region. For example, Ray McCullough was a charter member of the Michigan Orchid Society, was President of the MAOC in the mid 80's and was the first Chair of the Cincinnati Judging Center when it was newly fledged. He traveled world-wide as a Chief Engineer for the Ford Motor Company, able to explore and collect orchids in their native habitats – it was said that Ray, trekking through pastures, forests and jungles in Central and South America, would take a deep breath of the air and successfully predict whether he would find orchids growing there. His knowledge of epidendrums and encyclias was legendary and he maintained an extensive collection during his lifetime – the trophy named after him honors his legacy.



The Raymond McCullough Trophy is supported by a sponsored fund, meaning donations made for that trophy are used exclusively to recognize growers of outstanding epidendrums and encyclias. And since the MAOC is a 501(c)(3) organization, donations may be tax-deductible. If you would like to support the Raymond McCullough Trophy or any other trophy listed on the MAOC web site, please make a contribution to the MAOC, care of its Treasurer Jeanne Rhinehart, 6222 Leroy Place, Cincinnati, OH 45230 and designate the trophy you wish to support.

From Our Society Newsletters

Handouts for Information/Membership Tables

"The Trials and Tribulations of Trying to Grow What They Claim is the Easiest Orchid"
"How I Became an Orchid Addict"

“Why did my Orchid Turn White When it Bloomed Again?”

These 3 articles included at the end of this Newsletter, were **written by Linda Smith of the Orchid Society of Minnesota**. They are fantastic handouts to provide at shows and presentations! Published in the OSM Newsletter and on their website, Linda has given us permission to publish them in The MidAmerican for any society to use as handouts.

Copies of each were offered on the Information/Membership Table during the August 2022 Orchid Fest. Far superior to the usual Culture Sheets, “The Trials and Tribulations of Trying to Grow...the Easiest Orchid” gives step by step instructions and remedies for errors in an entertaining format. It is perfect for someone starting to explore orchid culture. More experienced orchid growers chuckled over “How I Became an Orchid Addict”, taking a copy home to prove to family members that accumulating more and more orchids is natural. Although most knew that brilliantly colored orchids sold on special occasions use a dye for their color, they enjoyed reading about the procedure in “Why did my Orchid Turn White When it Bloomed Again?”

Again, these printable articles are to be found near the end of this Newsletter.

MAOC’s goal is to help orchid societies by sharing information, and these clever articles merit sharing. Enjoy!

Book Order Opportunity: Save on Shipping With a Group Order

Eric Sauer

We are looking to place a group order for Guido Braem’s books on Paphiopedilum (Approximately \$120), Phragmipedium (approximately \$72) and his upcoming book on Tolumnia (\$TBD). We will receive a discount on the books and save significantly on the international shipping by placing a group order. The price in Euros is set, but we will set the final US price when we make the order in January based on the exchange rate. We will then ship them to you from Dayton for about \$10 as opposed to the over \$40 shipping from Germany. We can also have the books signed and personalized as well. Please let Eric Sauer at eric@rvorchids.com know as soon as possible if you or your society is interested in purchasing copies. These are amazing books with a lot of species information on culture, in situ photos and are loaded with color photos of all the species. Don’t miss out on these amazing books to add to your library!



Conservation

We are excited to include progress reports on the conservation grants awarded this past year (in 2021) by 3 of the 5 grant recipients. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain reports from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on how our grant given for “Continuing work on vanilla research, DNA sequencing and clade processing” turned out. Nor could we obtain a report from the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory about adding to their Central and South American collection. NOPES has included reports in the last 2 newsletters. The following are reports we did receive:

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Report on grant activity from 2021 grant

David Remucal, Plant Conservation Program

August 6, 2022

In 2021, MAOC granted our Orchid Conservation Program \$400 in support of native orchid conservation work the program is doing, specifically for petri dishes for orchid and fungi propagation and banking and for filter sand to be used in orchid bed research and display.

The orchid beds in the research and display areas were finally planted in 2022 with a variety of orchids available from our program. These include most of the *Cypripedium* growing in the state as well as several *Platanthera*, the three *Goodyera* species, several *Spiranthes*, both *Liparis* species, *Aplectrum*, and some others. We have been successful in growing several additional species and are producing all of these orchids continually in anticipation of attrition in these initial years as we figure out how best to establish them in these beds. The filter sand is used in the construction of the filtering system used in the beds meant to approximate bog conditions and is used to keep the “plumbing” of the beds from clogging with organic material so they continue to drain as needed.

The petri dishes are used in the propagation and cultivation of both orchids and the fungal hosts on which the orchids depend. We have isolated several fungi for multiple orchid species and have paired the two successful in many cases (meaning we have been able to use the fungi to successfully germinate orchid seeds and grow seedlings. We’ve found that in most cases the orchids grow considerably faster with the fungi than without them, which is interesting as generally it seems that orchids germinated and grown asymbiotically actually mature and grow much faster than they do in nature. Recent successes include listed species *Platanthera clavellata*, *Malaxis monophyllos* var. *brachypoda*, and *Platanthera praeclara*. We’re hoping to start using this information to introduce these to natural areas.

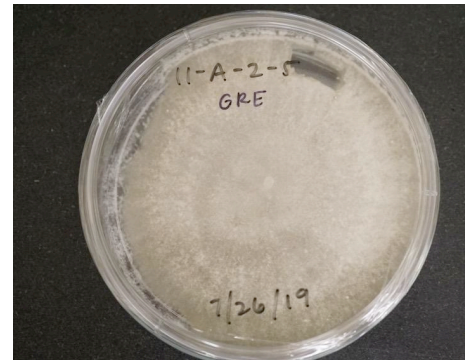
Once again, thank you to the Mid-American Orchid Congress for your continued support of orchid work, your support is important, both financially and as continued recognition of our program.



Cypripedium reginae in orchid boxes in the Plant Conservation Program’s research area.



Liparis loeselii growing readily on oatmeal media with isolated fungus



Fungal isolate from *Goodyera repens* – appears to be *Ceratobasidium* (AM 2013 strain 227)

Ball State University, Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection

May 4, 2022



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Report on Funding for MAOC Grant, 2021
Orchid Species Acquisition for Conservation and Propagation
Summary of expenditures for Grant
\$400 requested from MAOC, \$400 granted

In efforts to continue to represent a wide diversity of species orchids, especially the Phalaenopsis group, the following species were added to the WOCSB via this MAOC Conservation Grant. Included here is a summary document of the plants purchased as a result of MAOC. These additions to the WOCSB added thirty-five (23) new species, nine (9) genera, with particular emphasis on the Vandea tribe. Thank you very much for the opportunity to enhance the species diversity of the Wheeler Orchid

Collection and Species Bank. By doing so, it is the plan that WOCSB can better assist with orchid species conservation and education. We look forward to working with you again in the future. Starting with the 2022 MAOC grant requests, our next curator, Carol Day, will be completing the reports and making these grant requests. It has been a pleasure working with you and MAOC on behalf of orchid conservation!

Sincerely,
Cheryl M. LeBlanc, Curator/Ecologist
Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank
Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse
c/o Department of Biology, 1600 W. Ashland Ave.
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
(765) 285-8839
Website <https://bsu.edu/orchids>
Cc: Carol Day, carol.day@bsu.edu

Category	Genus	Species	Region
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	bellina	Borneo
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	equestris (orange)	Taiwan
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	florescensis	Indonesia
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	leuddemanniana	Philippines
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	modesta	Borneo
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	pulcherrima	Thailand
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	schilleriana	Phillipines
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	violacea	Malaysia and Sumatra
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis	violacea var coerulea	Malaysia
Cattleya group	Cattleya	warsceqiczii (gigas)	Columbia
Assorted	Coelogyne	usitana	Philippines
Assorted	Dracula	astute	Mexico to Peru
Assorted	Dracula	gigas	Mexico to Peru
Assorted	Dracula	gorgona var zanthine	Mexico to Peru

Assorted	Dracula	hyeterina	Mexico to Peru
Assorted	Dracula	vampira	Mexico to Peru
Assorted	Masdevallia	coccinea	Columbia
Assorted	Masdevallia	veitchiana	Peru
Assorted	Dendrobium	victoria-reginae	Philippines
Assorted	Dendrobium	cuthbertsonii	New Guinea
Assorted	Cymbidium	aliofolium	Southeast Asia
Assorted	Lycomormium	fiskei	Peru to Ecuador
Assorted	Sobralia	turkelia	Mexico

Gift to NAOCC (North American Orchid Conservation Center)

The study of mycorrhizal fungi is at the forefront of orchid study. At the MAOC Members Meeting, a motion was approved to provide a gift of \$1000 to NAOCC to buy supplies to enable their study to continue. The following is their grateful explanation of how it will be used and how important this gift is:

Thanks so much, we greatly appreciate the gift!

It will be put to good use for supplies used in the process of isolating, identifying, and culturing the mycorrhizal fungi from orchid roots. Not only will it help in general to advance our understanding of orchids' symbiotic interactions with mycorrhizal fungi, but it will also support some specific cutting-edge projects currently in progress. In one project, Melissa and her Molecular Ecology lab team are in the process of exploring how fungi contribute to speciation and diversification in the orchid genus *Platanthera*; they are investigating how preferences for fungal use are inherited by studying parent species and their hybrid offspring. In another project, they are looking at the genomics of orchid mycorrhizae in order to better understand how plants and fungi interact to form mycorrhizal associations.

I hope this helps with something for the newsletter, but please let us know if you need more. I can also check to see if Melissa or Brett have any interesting photos to illustrate this work.

Thanks again, and please let us know if you have any further questions.

Best wishes,
 Julianne McGuinness
 Principal / Consultant, Aisling Mhor Consulting
 & Program Development Coordinator
 North American Orchid Conservation Center
<https://northamericanorchidcenter.org/>
mcjuli@mtaonline.net / 907-360-5369

Affiliated Societies: MAOC Speakers List

MAOC has compiled a list of speakers with the topics each is willing to present. This list is published on the MAOC website, under "Education". Please feel free to contact those listed to arrange lectures and seminars.

(DRAFT to be approved at next Congress)



Mid-America Orchid Congress

Fall Business Meeting

Kettering, OH

August 28, 2022

President Cheryl Erins called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. with approximately 35 people present. In lieu of the traditional roll call of affiliated societies, Cheryl urged all attendees to sign in on the sign-in sheet giving their email address. She welcomed everyone and provided nonalcoholic mimosas to everyone to celebrate the fresh start for Mid-America after the long pandemic hiatus. Cheryl informed the group that she had presented the minister of the Church a plaque thanking the congregation for their help and support in both 2021 and again this year.

Approval of Minutes: The Congress approved the minutes from the Business Meeting held via Zoom, November 3, 2021, as distributed.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Jeanne Rhinehart presented the Treasurer’s report, giving a total for the Congress of:

MAOC Net Worth 2022 as of 8/10/22	
PNC Checking	5,609.42
PNC Money Market	55,538.24
PNC CD 2669 6/18/25	5,567.57
PNC CD 9879 6/21/23	6,612.91
Total:	73,328.14

Jeanne reported that the auction on Saturday night brought in \$2,181, which is to be split 50-50 between Mid-America and the two host societies.

Remembering Karen McBride: Cheryl called for a moment of silence to remember Karen McBride who died July 10, 2022. Her family has requested that charitable donations in her memory could be given to the Alzheimer’s Foundation. Charles Wilson moved that the Congress send such a donation in the amount of \$100; Janice Yates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Committee Reports – This year, most of the Committee reports were done in advance and printed in a single document, which was emailed out to everyone. Only Committees requiring funding reported at this meeting.

Budget: Chair Janice Yates gave the following budget for 2023:

The budget proposed below reflects two continuing issues: the slow recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic which disrupted many MAOC member societies’ activities and the MAOC’s efforts to increase its offerings to societies and improve attendance at its Congress meetings.

On the income side, the MAOC has, for many years, split its primary auction revenue with the society hosting a Congress meeting – so gross auction revenue is an income item and the society’s share is an expense item. Society dues have been slowly increasing but still reflect that many MAOC member societies suffered membership losses. Other income sources are modest but, going forward, the MAOC will be trying to boost donation support of its conservation activities and its named show trophies, honoring individuals who gave extraordinary support to the MAOC over the years.

INCOME:

Auctions	
Primary Auctions	\$ 2,400.00
Silent Auctions	300.00
Donations and Honoraria	300.00
Investment Income	50.00
Shows	0.00*

Show Tags	150.00
Society Dues	1,200.00
Total	\$ 4,060.00

*Currently, there is one hosted Congress meeting annually; if the MAOC conducts an in-conjunction Congress, meaning it handles all MAOC activities, including registrations and speakers, for example, it retains all auction proceeds and receives show-related income and incurs show-related expenses.

Expenses fall into two categories, general and sponsored. Sponsored expenses are paid from restricted funds meaning the MAOC already has the funds in place to pay those bills and does not need to rely on its general revenue. Those funds are marked with an 'S' below. Other expenses, while budgeted, may be reduced or even eliminated if a drop in revenue requires it. Finally, the MAOC is experimenting with 'scholarships' which pay \$500 to societies to partially cover expenses for one or more members to attend a Congress event. This, too, is a discretionary expense.

EXPENSES:

AOS membership dues	\$ 162.00
Bank Charges	50.00
Conservation Grants	2,400.00
Conservation Speaker (S)	750.00
Education and Research	1,000.00
Filing Fee (State of OH form)	50.00
Judging Center Support	900.00
Liability Insurance	525.00
Officer Expenses	100.00
Scholarships to Societies	1,500.00
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker (S)	750.00*
Show Tags	50.00
Shows	1,200.00**
Trophies (S)	550.00
Total	\$ 8,987.00

*The Shirley Burr Moore Fund pays expenses for the first speaker at each Congress; expenses are capped at \$750 for a speaker within the US and capped at \$1,500 for an international speaker.

**This represents the 50-50 split of primary auction proceeds with a host society; this is an estimate based on prior years. The actual amount will vary depending on the gross proceeds. If the MAOC hosts an in-conjunction show, this line would also reflect expenses covered by the registration fees.

Submitted by Janice Yates. Budget Committee Chair

Charles Wilson moved acceptance of this budget; motion seconded by Doug Martin; motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl urged all of the societies represented in the meeting to consider hosting a meeting of MAOC. Moreover, she indicated the great need for volunteers to serve on MAOC committees.

Conservation Committee: Russ Vernon, a member of the Committee, reported in the absence of the Chair Bill Morrison. The Committee requests funding in the amount of \$400 each to:

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory to add to their Central and South American collection,
 Niagara Frontier Orchid Society to start a cattleya collection at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens – a new request this year, NOPES to continue their restoration work, Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection to adding dendrobium spatulata section species to the collection, a new request in the amount of \$540 to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to buy shade cloth for a hoop house cold frame.

Charles Wilson moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Doug Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

Education and Research: Doug Martin, a member of the Committee, reported that the Committee wants to give \$1,000 to NAOCC, which stands for North American Orchid Conservation Center. NAOCC was established by the Smithsonian Institution and the US Botanic Garden to assure the survival of all native

orchids in the US and Canada. NAOCC requests \$1,000 to buy supplies to continue their research on mycorrhizal fungi. Janice Yates moved acceptance of this proposal; Jeanne Rhinehart seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: there was none.

Election of Officers for 2023: Barry Jones, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate:

President: Cheryl Erins

1st Vice President: Donna Lipowicz

2nd Vice President: Eric Sauer

Secretary: Doris Asher

Treasurer: Jeanne Rhinehart

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

Awards Committee: In the absence of Chair Anna Morrison, Janice Yates reported on the various awards and trophies given at the Orchid Fest.

There was an abundance of quality plants at this year's Ohio Valley Orchid Fest which is reflected in the awards listed; in some cases, multiple awards were given to an outstanding plant.

Mid-America Awards:

Henry & Lois Holmes Award for Best Plant in the Oncidium Alliance – Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS, owner Dave Miller, Niles, OH

Clifford & Vivian Walters Award for Best Plant in Oncidium Alliance – Gomenkoa Golden Arches 'Dark Mountain Gold' HCC/AOS, owner Jeanne Kaeding, Rochester, NY. The AOS quality award was given at the show.

Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for Best Specimen Plant – Paph. Dark Child 'Howard P. Martin' AM/AOS, owner Howard P. Martin, Buffalo NY

The AOS award, an 83-point Award of Merit was given at the show – since this plant received the highest point score of any plant in the Cypripedium alliance, it also received the Fox Valley Trophy for Best Plant in the Cypripedium alliance and received the Miami Valley Orchid Society's Don Walket Trophy for Best Plant in the Cypripedium alliance.

FL Stevenson Award for Best Plant in the Pleurothallid Alliance – Masdevallia Golden Sun, owner Ann DePrez, Louisville, KY. This plant also received the Pat June Trophy for Best Plant in Miscellaneous Classes awarded by the Miami Valley Orchid Society.

Miami Valley Orchid Society Awards: in addition to the Don Walket and Pat June Trophies which are listed above, awards presented included:

Tom Cox Trophy for Best Phalaenopsis – Phal. Kenneth Schubert, owner Chester Kieliszek, Northfield, OH

Al May Trophy for Best Plant in Pleurothallid Alliance – Pabstiella tripterantha 'River Valley' CCM/AOS, owner Eric Sauer, Centerville, OH. This Certificate of Cultural Merit of 83 points was given at the show.

Jim Bailey Trophy for Best Plant in Cattleya Alliance - C. maxima, owner Oak Knob Orchids (Stephen Benjamin), Bardstown, KY

Stan Better Trophy for Best Plant in Vanda Alliance – V. Jairak Brown, owner Natt's Orchid, Napierville, IL Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society:

Betty Forker Trophy for Best Plant in Cattleya Alliance – Brassavola fragrans, owner Windswept in Time (Edgar Stehli), Broadview Heights, OH

Frank Gastright Trophy for Best Plant in Cypripedium Alliance – Phrag Noirmont 'Mary Ann Sauer' AM/AOS, owner Eric Sauer, Centerville, OH

Bob Wolf Trophy for Outstanding Specimen – Stanhopea wardii, owner Robert's Orchids (Wayne Roberts), Columbia Station, OH

American Orchid Society awards not already listed included:

Max. marginata 'River Valley' HCC/AOS (78 points), owner Eric Sauer, Centerville, OH

Paph. Carolyn Butcher 'Shocking Pink' HCC/AOS (79 points), owner, Dave Miller, Niles, OH

Hab. Regnieri ‘Windswepts’ Beauty’ AM/AOS (82 points), owner, Windswept in Time (Edgar Stehli), Broadview Heights, OH
 Hab. Kat’s Whiskers ‘Windswept Whiskers’ AM/AOS (81 points), owner, Windswept in Time
 Hab. medioflora ‘Windswept’ AM/AOS (81 points), owner, Windswept in Time
 Paph. Hung Sheng Venus ‘Oakwood’s Chestnut’ AM/AOS (81 points), owner Oakwood Orchids (Jim France)
 Ctsm. Joseito’s Dark Phoenix ‘Lemon Truffle’ AM/AOS (84 points), owner Jeanne Kaeding, Rochester, NY
 The Committee report was approved by the Congress.

New Business:

Beth Martin called attention to the fact that the AOS Liaison Report in the printed packet of Committee Reports said that Rich Garrison was a student in the Mid-America Judging Center. Doris Asher investigated and discovered that Mr. Garrison is a judging student in the Mid-Atlantic Judging Center. That Report has been corrected.

Jeanne Rhinehart requested that societies send their newsletters to Ann Tsui – such newsletters are very helpful in providing contacts for member societies.

Several attendees were recipients of this year’s scholarship program and wanted to thank the Congress for helping them attend the OrchidFest. Societies winning scholarships this year were Alabama OS, the Greater Akron OS, and the Greater Omaha OS.

Adjournment: There being no additional business to come before the Congress, President Cheryl Erins adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Doris Asher

MAOC Contacts 2022-2023

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Affiliated Societies Websites

Society	Website
Alabama OS	facebook.com/alabamaorchidsociety
Ann Arbor OS	aaosonline.org
Atlanta	atlantaorchidsociety.org
Batavia	bataviaorchidsociety.org
Blue Grass	bluegrassorchidsociety.org
Central Indiana	centralios.org
Central Iowa	centraliowaorchidsociety.org
Central Missouri	centralmissouriorchidsociety.com
Central Ontario	coos.ca
Central Ohio	centralohioorchidsociety.org
Essex County	essexcountyorchidsociety.webs.com
Eastern Iowa	easterniowaorchidsociety.org
Grand Valley	grandvalleyorchidsociety.org
Greater Akron	thegaos.com
Greater Cincinnati	cincinnatiorchids.org
Greater Cleveland	gcos.org
Greater Lansing	greaterlansingorchidsociety.com
Greater Omaha	greateromahaorchidsociety.org
Greater Pensacola	facebook.com/GreaterPensacolaOrchidSociety
Greater Toledo	
Gulfcoast	gcorchids.org
Huntsville Orchid Society	facebook.com/groups/huntsvilleorchidsociety/permalink/740378676648807/
Illinois	ciorchidsociety.org
Illowa	facebook.com/growersoforchids
Kentucky	kyorchidsociety.com
Kingwood	facebook.com/KingwoodCenter
London Ontario	londonorchidsociety.com
Memphis	memphisorchids.org
Miami Valley	miamivalleyorchidsociety.com
Michiana	michianaorchidsociety.org
Michigan	miorchidsociety.com
Mobile Area Orchid Society`	mobileareaorchidsociety.org

Native Orchid Preservation Education S	nativeorchidpreservationeducationsociety.com
Niagara Frontier Orchid Society	niagarafrontierorchids.org
Northeast Alabama	facebook.com/NEAOS
Northland Orchid Society	northlandorchidsociety.org
Northeastern Wisconsin	newisos.org
Northwestern Michigan	nmorchid.org
Orchid Growers Guild of Madison	orchidgrowersguild.org
OS of Greater Kansas City	osgkc.org
OS of Greater St. Louis	osogsl.org
OS of Middle Tennessee	tnorchid.org
OS of Minnesota	orchidsocietyofminnesota.org
OS of the Royal Botanic Gardens	osrbg.ca/wp
Orchid Society of the Ozarks	oso-web.org
Peoria	facebook.com/Peoria-Orchid-Society-224849760918419
Prairie State	prairiestateorchids.org
Saginaw Valley	sagvalleyorchids.org
Smokey Mountain	smokymtnorchidsociety.com
South Metro	FB South Metro Orchid Society
Springfield MO	
Three Rivers	facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Three-Rivers-Orchid-Society-374952799184040
West Shore OS of Northern OH	westshoreorchidsociety.org
Windsor Orchid Society	windsororchidsociety.ca
Wisconsin Society	wisconsinorchidsociety.com

The Trials and Tribulations of Trying to Grow What They Claim is the Easiest Orchid

By Linda Smith, Orchid Society of Minnesota

The Phalaenopsis

One of the first things you're told when you start growing orchids, is that the Phalaenopsis is the easiest type of orchid to grow. I will agree that it is certainly the easiest and most inexpensive orchid to find for sale, common at grocery stores and big box retailers starting at under \$10. So, with something this readily available, why couldn't I, a person with two very clearly green thumbs, manage to keep one alive for more than a month? Very good question and one which it took me many years and many Phalaenopsis orchids before I finally figured it out.

To start with, I was buying plants in full bloom, based solely on the flowers, and totally ignoring the condition of the leaves and the roots. If the flower looked nice, I assumed the plant was in good shape. This was not necessarily the case. While the plants may have been doing great in the greenhouse they were born into, once they left the confines of that greenhouse, their treatment may not have been all that it should have been. Did the plant get watered in the right amount and at the right time? Did anyone bother to give it some fertilizer and, if so, was it the right kind and in the right amount? Was it given some sunlight or kept in a dark storage room? Was it being kept too cold or hot? Bottom line is that you just don't know and you have to do your best to guess, so where to begin?

Start with the leaves. Are they firm and green? This is what you are looking for. If they are wrinkled or discolored, it's a good sign that there is something going wrong with the plant. The next step is to, if at all possible, look at the roots. Many plants are potted in a moss mix set inside a clear plastic pot, covered by a more decorative pot. Gently pull the plant (in its plastic pot) out of the decorative pot and take a look. Are the roots thick, firm, and white, often with green tips, or are they dried up and brown? And the moss, how does it feel? Is it dry and hard or is it moist and pliable? Your ideal choice is a plant that has firm, green leaves with roots that are thick and white with some green tips, all nestled in moss that is moist but not saturated, unless the plant has recently been watered.

Once you are convinced that the plant you're looking at is a good one, only then should you start to consider the flowers. Many Phalaenopsis plants will hold their flowers for as many as six months, some even longer. But if the plant you're purchasing is already in bloom, how do you know how long the flowers will last? The only way to know you're getting a plant with the longest lasting flowers is to select the plant with flower buds that have not yet opened. If you have an option, go for the plant with more than one flower spike, or one whose spike is branching. The larger and more spikes you have, the more flowers you will get.

Now that you've made your selection, take care in transporting it home. Orchids like to be kept at the same temperatures we like. If they are suddenly chilled or overheated, they are apt to lose their flower buds, and you might just lose the whole plant. So, take care in moving your plant from the

store to the car; if it's cold out, get some extra bags from the cashier and bag it up. Plastic is fine, but paper is better as it allows more warm air to surround the plant. And take your plant directly home. Whether it's hot or cold out, you don't want to be running errands with a temperature sensitive plant in the back seat. Upon arrival, let the bag come to room temperature before removing the plant. Then place the plant in a bright, sunny location, with indirect light, to encourage the flowers to continue opening. After they're all open, back the plant away from the light to extend the duration of the flowers. To make sure your plant is getting enough, but not too much, light, touch the leaves in the heat of the day. If they're hot, they're getting too much light. If you notice the leaves starting to turn red or brown, that's sunburn. So keep an eye on the plant to make sure it stays happy in its new home.

Water your plant when the moss is totally dry and fertilize with an orchid fertilizer regularly, generally once a week. Water lightly once, to allow the moss and roots to rehydrate, then go back and water again about ten minutes later more deeply. Once a month, just use water (without fertilizer) to flush out any lingering fertilizer salts that can cause browning of your leaf tips. And pay attention to the water you use – the purer the water, the better, and make sure the water is not softened as softened water contains low levels of salts that can slowly cause the deterioration of your plant. If you want to increase the humidity around your plant, you can mist around it periodically, but make sure water never sits in the crown of the plant (the point in the middle where the leaves come together) as this can cause the plant to rot and die, and you certainly don't want that to happen!

After your plant is done flowering, you can cut the dried flower spike off and then wait patiently for the plant to take a break before it chooses to flower again. These plants can benefit from a cool period in the fall, so allow your plant to sit near a window or even outside, where there is a ten degree temperature drop between day and night temperatures. This is pretty easy to accomplish in Minnesota, where many of us use a setback thermostat to save on heating costs in the winter. Just make sure the plant is not kept in an area that falls below 55 degrees.

So, did I ever figure out what I was doing wrong? Yep, pretty much everything. But now I know and I'm doing much better! I'm happy to report that I've kept Phalaenopsis orchids alive for well over a month. This one, pictured below, was purchased in bud in September 2020 and it is now April 2021 and continuing to bloom. What did I do right? I spent some time looking the plant over carefully, it's roots were good, the leaves looked great, there were three flower spikes, and only a couple flowers had fully opened. And did I mention that it only cost me \$14.99? And it's been seven months? And it's still blooming?

If I can do it, so can you! So, get on out there and get yourself a plant to try! With these tips and a little bit of luck, you're going to have a plant you can grow and appreciate the flowers on for many years to come!

How I Became an Orchid Addict

By Linda Smith, Orchid Society of Minnesota

While it is true that I have always had a love for plants, I had never known much about orchids, much less attempted to grow one. If I had any thoughts at all about them, it was that they were some sort of exotic plant, to be grown by the wealthy in fabulous conservatories. Totally not my situation, that's for sure! Little did I suspect that, about twenty years ago now, things were about to change...

One winter afternoon, cold, snowy, dark – the kind of day where you just want to hang out inside with a hot cup of tea next to the fireplace, dreaming of a warm, sunny day with toes in the sand – I just happened to be at my local Target picking up various sundry household items when out of the corner of my eye, I saw something bright and tropical looking. Lo and behold, it was an orchid and it was only \$19.99. Without a thought, into my cart it went! Mind you, I knew nothing about orchids, not even that there were various kinds and that they just might require some special type of care. All I knew for sure was that this plant made me feel good and I had to have it!

And so it began...

Within a few days, I had started researching orchids and trying to figure out how to keep this beauty alive. I soon made my way to the local orchid nursery to gather more intel and, along the way, it just so happened, more orchids. Within a matter of months, my one orchid had multiplied to about 50 and, by the time a year rolled around, I was at well over 100 plants! Along the way, there were successes and there were failures, but there was always something new to try and I was honing my knowledge and skills and learning what would thrive in my home environment.

My search for others like me soon brought me to my local orchid society where, the minute I walked through the door of my first meeting, I immediately felt at home, innately knowing that these were my people. These fellow orchid hobbyists got me and I knew we were kindred spirits! I have since traveled many roads with this group, literally and figuratively, and the journey never gets old. I am constantly invigorated by new orchid finds and enabled by the assistance and enthusiasm of the people who surround me.

I am, I am happy to admit, an orchid addict. And that is not a problem for me; instead, it is a gateway to excitement, adventure, and deep friendships with fellow appreciators of these most amazing plants. I'm bubbling over with excitement to see what orchid is around the next corner! Won't you join me?

Why Did My Purple Orchid Turn White When It Bloomed Again?

By Linda Smith, Orchid Society of Minnesota

You saw an amazing orchid, one like no other you'd ever seen before, and you just had to have it. Perhaps it was purple and it was Vikings season? Or maybe it was green and it was around St. Patrick's Day? Or maybe you were hosting a baby shower and lucked into a baby blue and pink one? What a flower it was! And you enjoyed it for several months, did everything right, and then it started to grow another flower spike! Awesome! Success! How exciting to look forward to more colorful blooms!

And then the flowers started to open. Only then did you notice that something was wrong. Your beautifully colored orchid was no longer the same! It was now white! What the heck happened? As it turns out, your now white blooming orchid always was white! It was just manipulated by some very clever humans to change color! During the flowering process, dye is injected into the plant through a small hole in the developing flower stem. As the plant is watered, the dye will travel with the water into the flowers, thus changing their color from white to the color of the dye. Unfortunately, once those initial flowers fade, all that is left is the underlying, original color of the flowers, which is usually white.

So, bottom line, you did nothing wrong! And rather than lamenting the flowers that you no longer have, why not appreciate all the new flowers you have to look forward to! And let's not forget the fact that you were successful in growing and reblooming this plant – I'd say ya done good!

Happy Growing!



THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

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Cincinnati, OH 45230
Tel. 513-383-3805
jeanws@me.com

I. ACTIVE SOCIETY DUES 2023

_____ x \$ 0.50 = \$ _____ **OR \$ 15.00 PER SOCIETY \$** _____
(If membership is greater than 30 members) (If membership is fewer than 30members)

II. NAME OF SOCIETY: _____

President: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

Main Mid-American Contact: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

OFFICERS' TERMS EXPIRE _____ **(MO/YR)**

SOCIETY WEB ADDRESS: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE