



THE MID-AMERICAN

MID-AMERICAN ORCHID CONGRESS (MAOC)

Fall 2025 Newsletter

Letter From the President

I wish to begin by expressing my personal and the organization's gratitude for the continued financial support to the on-going missions of the MAOC. Without the contributions from each Member Society, the MAOC would be significantly limited in our ability to facilitate greater involvement in orchid conservation, education and the overall love of growing and sharing orchids with the general public.

I would also like to take this opportunity to solicit any input on how the MAOC can better serve your Society. What programs or information sharing can we continue/develop that would be relevant in the growth and vitality of our Member Societies. One area of feedback that we have heard loud and clear is that the MAOC needs to do a better job in communicating who we are and what we are doing. To address this feedback, the MAOC will be launching the MAOC Minute. The MAOC Minute will be in the format of a short bulletin that highlights timely and current activities within the MAOC and our Member Societies. The MAOC Minute will serve as supplements to our MidAmerican Newsletter.



Masdevallia Othello Photo by Kris Mason

And lastly, a shameless request to your Society. The MAOC is always searching for individuals that wish to be more involved with our activities. Additional individuals will enable us to spread the workload amongst more people, **but more importantly**, we are looking for an influx of new and fresh ideas on how to do what we do. Please survey your membership to see if there is anyone that might be interested.



Bob Hydzyk in his MAOC initiation hat.

Please feel free to email me at wolf71758@gmail.com with ideas or questions! I hope to see you at the upcoming Affiliated Society Webinar on January 25th, 2026 when Ron Parsons will be speaking on the Orchids of Madagascar.

Happy Growing!

Bob Hydzyk, MAOC President

January 25, 2026 7:30 pm: Ron Parsons "Orchids of Madagascar"

For \$30, MAOC member societies will receive an access code for all of their members to enjoy the Zoom presentation. Societies that are not currently members of MAOC may pay \$45, which covers a year of MAOC membership **plus** the access code good for all of their members. Individuals in a non-member society may register individually for \$25. For easy registration, go to the newly revised Membership Application on the last page of this newsletter and use the link at the bottom of that page, then fill out and email the form.

Affiliated Societies Meeting Presentations



Photo and Bio from AOS

On Sunday January 25th at 7:30 pm EDT, Ron Parsons, a noted world traveler, lecturer and author will showcase information and tales of orchids in exotic Madagascar.

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for nearly 49 years. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, and does so as often as possible. Ron has more than 100,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has given more than 500

talks on various botanical topics, and has nearly 6500 published photos. Ron has co-authored books on botanical subjects, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. In 2019 The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture was released, and is on its third printing. In 2021 they released a much-revised second edition of their book A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species. It is now in four volumes with 3100 photos (1800 of those are new), including those of more than 500 species not in the first edition. See registration information on the previous page.

Show Classifications Were Made Clear on October 19, 2025.

At the Affiliated Societies meeting, Donna Lipowicz systematically demonstrated how using these documents downloaded from the MAOC webpage made Show Plant Registration clear and easy:

Found on the MAOC Website Under the Education tab:

- **MAOC Classification Document-2024 complete**
- **MAOC Intergeneric Makeup List:** find your hybrid by its parent cross and
- **Cheat sheet for Dendrobiums**
- **Cheat sheet for Paphiopedilums**
- **Registration Software:** Societies may share with MAOC. Contact Eric Sauer.

Orchidist of the Year Susan Charles



Susan was always "there and ready" when it came to making sure that fundraisers for MAOC were successful and complete. By complete, I mean that donors got receipts for the items they provided for auctions or other fundraisers. Susan did all of this without fanfare. She did this in support of her friend, Donna Lipowicz who was chairperson of the MAOC Ways and Means Committee. The financial standing of MAOC remains in a good position thanks to all of Susan's efforts.

The Ohio Valley Orchid Fest 2025 Review

The Fifth Annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest was held from August 23-26, 2025. This year, the American Orchid Society (AOS) joined the Miami Valley Orchid Society (MVOS) and the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC) to add more activities, speaker presentations and Awards. The following are examples of spectacular orchids awarded with MAOC Trophies:



Masdevallia othello

MVOS Al May Memorial Trophy (Pluerothallid alliance),
MAOC Fl Stevenson Memorial trophy (Pluerothallid alliance) and
MAOC Delbert Lowell Jacks Memorial Trophy (Best Specimen)
Grower: Edgar Stehle of Windswept in Time



Epidendrum Pacific Sunset "Pink Rabbit"

MAOC Ray McCullough Memorial Trophy, Owner: Joe Casey



Angreacum calceolus

MAOC Christine M. Chowning Memorial Trophy
Owner: Anything Orchids



Phramipedium Noirmont 'Gerry' AM

MAOC Fox Valley Trophy
MVOS Don Walklet Memorial Trophy
Owner: Windy Hill Orchids

Above 3 photos by Eric Sauer

MAOC Annual Meeting Minutes



--Draft--

Mid-American Orchid Congress
August Business Meeting
Kettering, OH
August 24th, 2025

President Eric Sauer called the meeting to order at 11:48 PM with approximately 39 people present. In lieu of the traditional roll call of affiliated societies, Eric urged all attendees add their information to the sign in sheet, file attached.

Approval of Minutes: The Congress approved the August 25th, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne Rhinehart presented the Treasurer's report:

MAOC Net Worth as of Aug 1st, 2025

PNC Checking	\$5,702.03
5th/3rd CD (112-0508569302)	\$15,173.47
5th/3rd CD (112-0508413615)	\$41,041.64
5th/3rd Checking	\$779.79

July Total: \$62,696.93

Restricted funds: \$23,784.89

Treasurer report was unanimously accepted

Membership: Jeanne Rhinehart reported that as of Aug 1, there are 36 paid member societies. Several society representatives stated they would pay at the end of the meeting. One noted change – Society membership dues will be capped at \$100 for 2026. This will only affect larger societies. Society report was unanimously accepted

Committee Reports: Activity reports were done in advance and a booklet provided.

An extension for NOPES was approved. All Grant applications were approved.

Committee reports were unanimously approved.

A \$1000 donation to Smithsonian North American Orchid Conservation Center was requested. A short conversation highlighting the services and resources of NAOCC was given by several board members.

Unanimous approval of one-time donation to NAOCC

Budget – Jan Yates reported that on paper Mid-America Orchid Congress is running a slight deficit. However, many of the listed expenses are covered by endowed funds.

Budget was unanimously approved

Awards Committee: Awards from Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

6 AOS awards to 5 plants

5 MAOC awards were given (Perpetual display award not given (no displays), Judges opted not to give Henry C. Holmes or The Clifford and Vivian Walters Awards)

6 MVOS Awards were given

(see separate attachment for photos and awards)

Nominating Committee:

Russ Vernon presented the slate of officers for the next 2 years.

All recommendations were unanimously approved

Eric Sauer presented Bob Hydzik with his ceremonial hat (separate attachment)

The 2025 Mid-America Orchid Congress members meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM Aug 25, 2024.

A healthy discussion commenced after adjournment of MAOC business meeting lead by new president Bob about what Mid-America Orchid Congress is and how MAOC can best serve its member societies.

Respectfully submitted: Kris Mason

AOS AM Awarded Plants at OVOF



Paraphalaenopsis labukensis 'Anchalee Delight' AM 84
Owner Natt's Orchids



RTH Krull's 'Burning Ember' AM 80
MVOS Jim Baily Memorial Trophy
Owner Kenesha Verbeek



Cattleanthe Panache Amphora 'Princess Sarah' AM 81
Owner Karen Bloom



Paphiopedilum Vexillarium 'Little Frog' AM 84
Owner Little Frog Farms Rob Halgren



Podochilus khasiansus 'Little Weirdos' CBR
Owner Jill Woods



Paphiopedilum Oriental Spice 'Little Frog' AM 83
Owner Little Frog Farms Rob Halgren

Photos by Kris Mason

MAOC Shows Listed on the AOS Website/Events as of 11/4/2025

2025	November 8,9	Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
	November 15,16	Ann Arbor Orchid Society
2026	January 24, 25	Grand Valley Orchid Society Orchid Society of Minnesota

2026	January 30, February 1	Gulf Coast Orchid Society
	February 7,8	Orchid Growers Guild of Madison Wisconsin Three Rivers Orchid Society
	February 21,22	Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
	February 28, March 1	Greater Lansing Orchid Society
	March 6-8	Mobile Area Orchid Society Orchid Society of the Ozarks
	March 13-15	Atlanta Orchid Society
	March 21,22	Batavia Orchid Society Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
	March 27-29	Western North Carolina Orchid Society
	April 11,12	Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania
	June 6-7	Memphis Orchid Society
	September 12,13	Wisconsin Orchid Society

2025-2026 MAOC CONTACT LIST

OFFICERS	Communications: Jeanne Rhinehart
President: Bob Hydzik wolf71758@gmail.com	jeanws@me.com
1st Vice President: Eric Sauer eric@rvorchids.com	Conservation: Bill Morrison rosinante@gmail.com
2nd Vice President: Nancy Shapiro nlshapiro2@gmail.com	Constitution and By-Laws: Charles Wilson zooemeritus@gmail.com
Secretary: Kris Mason orchidbiochem@aol.com	Education and Research: Cheryl Erins cerins10812@comcast.net
Treasurer: Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com	Historical: Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRS	Nominating: Eric Sauer eric@rvorchids.com
Affiliated Societies: Jill Wood Jill_wood80@hotmail.com	Orchidist of the Year: Jan Yates jyates4110@gmail.com
Annual Meeting: Eric Sauer eric@rvorchids.com	Show Schedule: Lois Cinert george.cinert@att.net
Audit: Donna Lipowicz ladysliper@roadrunner.com	Show Tags: Lois Cinert george.cinert@att.net
Awards: OPEN	Technology: Cheryl Erins cerins10812@comcast.net
Budget: Jan Yates jyates4110@gmail.com	Ways and Means: Anh Rongish anh.rongish@gmail.com

MAOC Member Societies

SOCIETY	WEBSITE OR CONTACT
Alabama Orchid Society	facebook.com/alabamaorchidsociety
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	aaosonline.org
Atlanta Orchid Society	atlantaorchidsociety.org
Batavia Orchid Society	bataviaorchidsociety.org
Carolinas Judging Center	carolinasjudgingcenter.org
Central Indiana Orchid Society	centralios.org
Central Iowa Orchid Society	centraliowaorchidsociety.org
Central Ohio Orchid Society	centralohioorchidsociety.org
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society	easterniowaorchidsociety.org
Greater Akron Orchid Society	thegaos.com
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	cincinnatiorchids.org
Greater Lansing Orchid Society	greaterlansingorchidsociety.inf
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	greateromahaorchidsociety.org
Greater Toledo Orchid Society	ryarger@toast.net
Gulf Coast Orchid Society	gcorchids.org
Illinois Orchid Society	ciorchidsociety.org
Kentucky Orchid Society	kyorchidsociety.com
Mansfield (Kingswood) Orchid Society	lpitzen@sssnet.com
Memphis Orchid Society	memphisorchids.org
Miami Valley Orchid Society	miamivalleyorchidsociety.com
Michigan Orchid Society	miorchidsociety.com
Native Orchid Preservation Education Society	nativeorchidpreservationeducationsociety.com
Niagara Frontier Orchid Society	niagarafrontierorchids.org
Northland Orchid Society	northlandorchidsociety.org
Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society	nmorchid.org
Orchid Growers Guild of Madison	orchidgrowersguild.org
Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City	osgkc.org
Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis	osogsl.org
Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee	tnorchid.org
Orchid Society of Minnesota	orchidsocietyofminnesota.org
Orchid Society of the Ozarks	oso-web.org
Orchid Society of Western PA	mapike@earthlink.net
Peoria Orchid Society	facebook.com/Peoria-Orchid-Society-224849760918419
Prairie State Orchid Society	https://www.facebook.com/prairiestateorchidsociety/
Saginaw Valley Orchid Society	sagvalleyorchids.org
Smokey Mountain Orchid Society	www.smokymountainorchidsociety.org
Springfield Orchid Society	Cnutt54@gmail.com
Three Rivers	https://www.facebook.com/p/Three-Rivers-Orchid-Society-100064312734536/
West Shore OS of Northern OH	westshoreorchidsociety.org
Western North Carolina Orchid Society	g_ram@yahoo.com
Windsor Orchid Society	windsororchidsociety.ca
Wisconsin Orchid Society	wisconsinorchidsociety.com



Judges at Work



Saturday Night Orchid Bingo



Orchid Sample



THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

6222 LeRoy Place
Cincinnati, OH 45230
Tel. 513-383-3805
jeanws@me.com

I. ACTIVE SOCIETY DUES 2026

_____ x \$ 0.50 = \$ _____

(If membership is greater than 30 members up to a maximum of \$100)

OR \$ 15.00 PER SOCIETY \$ _____

(If membership is fewer than 30 members)

II. NAME OF SOCIETY: _____

President: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Secretary: _____

E-mail address: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Newsletter editor: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Main Mid-American Contact: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

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

SOCIETY WEB ADDRESS: _____

SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

Please pay by check to the above address or online at [Home | Mid America Orchid Congress](#) and email registration form to email above