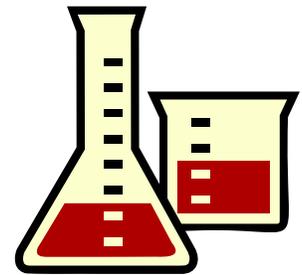
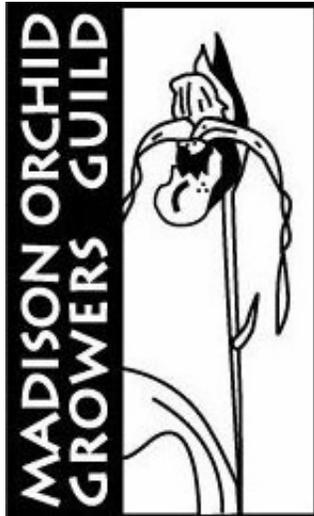


April 2007

# The Orchid Grower

Madison Orchid Growers' Guild



## NEXT MEETING APRIL 22; CAROL STIFF WILL SPEAK ON HOME PLANT PROPOGATION

Carol Stiff is originally from Kenosha Wisconsin and got her B.S. in bacteriology from U.W.-Madison. She also holds a M.S in plant science, a Ph.D. in forest science and an M.Ed. in education technology. Most of Carol's career has been university research and teaching at various schools. She started Kitchen Culture Kits, Inc. in 1998 and advises on the internet, sells kits for home tissue culture and teaches workshops around the country. Carol started culturing orchids a few years ago as a favor to a friend and at one time had a whole "guest room" full of plants. These were unfortunately lost when hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Louisiana greenhouses they were growing in. Carol recently returned to Wisconsin and lives with her family in Milton.

### Meeting Dates

- March 25 – Atrium
- April 22 – Meeting Room
- May 20 – Atrium
- June Picnic – TBA

### Up-coming Events

- April 27-29, 2007, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show in conjunction with Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress
- February 2 – March 2, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress, Miami, FL

### Officers and Committees

#### President:

Judy Stevenson (2008)  
[judy\\_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:judy_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net)

#### Vice President:

Sarah Lundey (2007)  
[sarahlundey@charter.net](mailto:sarahlundey@charter.net)

#### Secretary:

Meg McLaughlin (2007)  
[lodi4ever@charter.net](mailto:lodi4ever@charter.net)

#### Treasurer:

Don Fago (2008)  
[DFago@localnet.com](mailto:DFago@localnet.com)

#### Board:

Liz Barlow (2008)  
[eabarlow@wisc.edu](mailto:eabarlow@wisc.edu)

Plant tissue culture is a method of plant propagation that involves growing plant parts in a sterile environment and controlling the production of roots or shoots with growth regulators. Using this method, small plant parts can be induced to produce hundreds of small

"plantlets" which can be further developed and grown to maturity in greenhouses or as houseplants. The kitchen culture approach uses inexpensive household supplies and user-friendly procedures to mass produce your favorite plants. An overview of what tissue culture is and how it can be done at home will be presented with a focus on orchid seed culture and orchid "plant parts" culture.

### Inside this issue

Carol Stiff will Speak	1
John Clausen's Cattleya Talk	4
Message from the President	1
Next Board Meeting	7
Nominations Are Open	4
Ribbon Judging New Orchid Society	6
From Russia: Svetlana Kot	2
Tie-Dye Orchid	2
Up-Coming Events	7

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Annual Spring Sale and MAOC in Chicago

Spring is in the air which means our Annual Spring Sale at Olbrich is just around the corner. Please save Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for this special day. 10% of our proceeds go back to Olbrich. If you were not at our last OGG meeting, there is still time to sign up to help. If you can help either on Friday morning to unload the truck from Ackers and assemble the display or if you can work either the morning shift (9:30

Svetlana Kot (2009)  
[grigkot@gmail.com](mailto:grigkot@gmail.com)

Jill Hynum (2007)  
[jhynum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhynum@sbcglobal.net)

**Away Shows:**  
Sandy Delamater (2007)

**Hospitality:**  
Dawn Weckler (2007)  
Jeri Gjertson (2007)

**Librarian:**  
Liz Wood (2007)  
[ewood@biochem.wisc.edu](mailto:ewood@biochem.wisc.edu)

**Membership:**  
Board of Directors

**Newsletter:**  
Svetlana Kot  
Denise Baylis  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net)

**Orchid Quest:**  
Board of Directors

**Programs:**  
Elaine Malter

**Ribbon Judging:**  
Wayne King

**Web Master:**  
Svetlana Kot  
[grigkot@gmail.com](mailto:grigkot@gmail.com)

**Liaisons:**

**Alliant:** Elaine Malter (2007)  
**AOS:** Jill Hynum (2007)  
**MAOC:** Don Fago (2007)  
**Orchid Digest:** Jill Hynum (2007)

**Submit your photos to be included in the newsletter. Every month we want to include a gallery of photos to enjoy. Email your photos to Svetlana ([grigkot@gmail.com](mailto:grigkot@gmail.com)) and Denise ([jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net))**

AM – noon) or afternoon shift (noon – 2 PM) please call Denise Baylis (798-3602) or Judy Stevenson (231-3163) after 4/4.

We discussed several things at the last Board Meeting. First, we are not renting a bus for the MAOC Show in Chicago because there was not enough interest. Six people did sign up. Don Fago looked into renting a van but obtaining insurance for the van was a complication. We will pass around a sheet at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> OGG meeting if people would like to be part of a car pool.

We have requested a 50 square foot display at the MAOC, so it is very important that you send plants to that show. Most likely it will take two vehicles to take down and pick up the orchids on Sunday. We still need volunteers. Please call Sandy Delamater (835-8118). Remember to send plants that are free of insects. At the last OGG Board meeting we decided that if there is a plant with insects submitted, that plant will be removed from the exhibit. Thanks for your co-operation.  
Judy Stevenson

## TIE-DYE ORCHID

Steve Thimling saw an unusual orchid at Orchid Quest. The owners, Anita Martin and Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids describe it for us: The "tie-dye" orchid is *Doritaenopsis* (Golden Sun x Brother Red Splendor) x (Taida Pearl x Kung's Valentine). If the original hybridizer registers the plant it could have a shorter name but for now it is known by its grandparents!



Photograph from New Vision Orchids

*Doritaenopsis* (Golden Sun x Brother Red Splendor) x (Taida Pearl x Kung's Valentine)



Photograph by Steve Thimling

Attached is a picture of the sibling group. We are excited that there is so much interest in this cross and hopefully some of them receive awards in the future.

## FROM RUSSIA: SVETLANA KOT

*I asked Svetlana to tell us a little about herself and how she became attracted to growing orchids. Denise Baylis*

I am from St. Petersburg, Russia. I came to United States six years ago with my husband who is a physicist at UW. My first orchid, a no-name white phalaenopsis, came as a gift for Valentine's Day in 2004. I believe this is what many orchid growers begin with. Already in a few months, by the time our family moved to Madison, I had about 15 orchids.

I knew the orchids are going to be my passion and one of the first things I did after moving to the new place I joined The Orchid Growers' Guild. The first meeting I attended was at Acker's, the place that began to contribute to my orchid collection this very first day. By now I have about 60 orchids, some of them I bought at orchid shows and orchid farms. Others I adopted from other growers and even one abandoned on the street. I found two of my phals on Harvard Yard in Cambridge (student housing). I received third place at OQ 2007 for one of them!

Orchids interest me because there is such a great diversity of genera, color, shapes, etc. They grow in so many different media, some unusual.



As of today I did not make my mind up yet of what is my favorite orchid genus but I am most attracted to miniatures.

I keep some of my orchids in a large fish tank that I have turned into an orchidarium. I have a fan and lights on a timer. I like to conduct small research projects with some of my orchids and the unusual media they can grow in provides me with more ways to experiment. I try growing them in different media and then evaluate the plant after a few months, to determine

if it has produced new roots for example. Some media are the usual: bark-based, sphagnum but also different mounts, cork, clay pots, using sphagnum in different ways. I also used LECA (Lightweight Expanded Clay Aggregate) - media for semi-hydroponic culture, but I did not have big success. I am toying with the possibility of trying a mount on a clay slab.

A few years ago I got AceHTML, a free program for building websites. I have been playing with it for about four years and use it for editing and AceFTP for publishing. This program is available on-line which is where I find most of my information about orchids.

For photography I use a Canon Power Shot G7. I have no special knowledge about photography. I take photographs of my plants because I want

#### FOR SALE

Gently used, top condition, 3 shelf light cart, just under 7 feet tall with 3 shelves, 4 banks of grow lights, all operating. Top shelf 2 feet tall, middle shelf 1 foot tall, bottom shelf 16" tall. (These dimensions all usable heights for plants, not counting lights and drip trays). Complete with drip pans and eggshell racks so grower can water through and not leave plants sitting in water. Top shelf modified to use 2 banks of lights. Paid over \$400 new, asking \$250. Will throw in free electronic light meter and can deliver and reassemble. 26" by 24" wide. If interested or want to see it, call Benita at 251-2905.

a record of the bloom, the blossom is attractive, it's fun, etc.

I find it interesting to watch the orchid judging process, there are so many criteria. I still use only one myself – “I like it” or “I do not like it.” -- Svetlana Kot

## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Anticipated open positions are vice-president, secretary, treasures (1 year) and one or two board positions. If you are interested contact a member of the nominating committee, Judy Stevenson, Lorraine Snyder or Sarah Lundey.

## JOHN CLAUSEN SPOKE ON CATTLEYA

I first began growing orchids 30 years ago with plants from Ackers. I have been growing orchids under lights for 15 years or so and in a greenhouse for the past nine years. My collection is a mix of Cattleyas, Laelias, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums, Angraecums, odds and ends, hybrids and species. I enjoy species because of their unique character and charm. Although they are less forgiving they teach you how to grow hybrids better. I grow specimen plants for their impact and to improve my skills as a grower.

There are about 50 species of Cattleyas. They came into cultivation early in the 19th century. The genus is named for William Cattley, an English grower, collector, and patron of horticulture. They are divided into unifoliate and bi-foliate. Unifoliate typically have a single leaf on a stout pseudobulb, and usually have a few large flowers. Bi-foliate have 2 or 3 leaves on a more “cane-like” pseudobulb and smaller flowers, often in large clusters

There are about 60 species of Laelias, which are related to Cattleyas. *L. purpurata* and *L. tenebrosa* look most “cattleya-like” and the distinguishing feature used to be 8 pollinia vs. the 4 of cattleya. Some are more difficult to grow than cattleyas. Laelias demand more light and they are less tolerant of overwatering (e.g. *L. pumila*, *L. dayana*, *L. sincorana*, etc.) but they are more tolerant of lower temperatures than cattleyas.

**Culture:** Light is the most important factor for successful flowering, at least 4,000 foot-candles – more for many laelias. They need high intensity lights and to be outdoors in summer if they are not in a greenhouse. I cannot stress correct watering cycle enough – let them dry out! I use tap water (Lake Michigan water in Milwaukee) and no hot mix, no chlorine filters and no RO water.



Photograph by John Clausen  
*Cattleya intermedia* 'Grace Clausen' AM/CCM/AOS

Maintain cattleyas at 70 to 80% relative humidity. This is a little high (and promotes fungal growth in winter) but it is good for mounts. I use a fogger attached to a humidistat to maintain humidity. I attempt to maintain a temperature of 70°F during the day and 58°F at night during the winter but I cannot always hold it there. In the summer vents and windows are open all the time so my greenhouse is at ambient temperature with help from basement fan for cooling.

I fertilize by alternating 18-24-24 and 10-30-20 then 3rd week I use plain water. In winter 18-24-24 – water – 10-30-20 – water, etc. I use a proportioner at about 1 tsp/gallon but it is probably less. Cattleyas like clay over plastic pots, especially pots larger than 6 inches. Avoid too many varieties of potting mix. Be cautious of fads and find something you like and learn to work with it

Labeling your plants is important. I use pencil (everything else I have tried fades). Correct name, Source, Date and make 2 labels – one for notes and one for show.

Vigilance is your most important defense against pests. Be sure to take immediate action and be persistent. Follow directions for pesticides/fungicides and alternate between products. Some insecticides include Maverik, Enstar, Merit and Conserve. Fungicides include Banner-Maxx and Compass.

### **Maintaining and Improving Your Collection**

Know your growing conditions. Use a high-low thermometer to determine your temperature range. Use a Light meter to determine how much light you have. Use a Hygrometer to determine humidity.

Real estate is valuable, so be tight with it and throw poor performers away (they are not necessarily bad plants – just bad for you!). Throw out plants with bad flowers even if they grow well. Keep the size of the collection manageable. Remember your seedlings will grow up. Try a couple of new things now and then. If something fails once, try it again, but stop after three attempts. Compots and flasks are fun and worth a shot.

### **Summary**

Cattleya and Laelia species are rewarding and fun to grow. Good first plants to try:

- *C. labiata*, *C. jenmanii*, *C. gaskelliana*
- *C. bowringiana*, *C. maxima*, *C. deckerii*, *C. intermedia*
- *L. purpurata*, *L. anceps*
- Under lights: *C. luteola*, *C. forbesii*, *L. pumila*, *L. sincorana*

### **RUTGER'S POTTING MIX (parts by volume)**

9 parts medium fir bark  
2 parts medium (“#2 grade”) charcoal  
2 parts perlite (“#4 grade” or “horticultural grade”)  
1 ½ parts redwood fiber  
1 ½ parts chunky peat moss  
(I use long-fiber sphagnum instead of peat.)

- Same for seedlings but use seedling grade of the ingredients.
- Aloflor (nice for rupicolous, “rock,” laelias)
- Some treefern and charcoal mixed 50/50 nice for some oncidiums
- Mounts of cork, treefern, driftwood, oak, cedar shingles

**Favorite Books**

- The Cattleyas and Their Relatives, vol 1 The Cattleyas (Carl L. Withner)The Cattleyas and Their Relatives, vol 2 The Laelias (Carl L. Withner)
- Home Orchid Growing (Rebecca Tyson Northen)

**Favorite Plant Sources**

- Oak Hill Gardens, [www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com)
- Carter and Holmes, [www.carterandholmes.com](http://www.carterandholmes.com)
- Miranda Orchids, [www.mirandaorchids.com](http://www.mirandaorchids.com)
- Exotic Orchids of Maui, [www.mauiorchids.com](http://www.mauiorchids.com)

**Favorite Tools and Gadgets**

- Mixer (sold as “Odd Job Mixer”) for bark mix
- Forceps
- Torch
- Potting Stick
- Flat knife
- Plain lead pencil
- High/Low thermometer
- Hygrometer

**YOU KNOW YOU ARE ADDICTED TO ORCHIDS WHEN...**

... you are happy and excited to get a job at a remote, very sparsely inhabited, forested area with awful roads because it's perfect for your intermediate-growing orchids.

... you take a few orchids on vacation with you.

**NEW ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW**

March 2-4, 2007

Display Set-up : Sandy Delamater

Display Takedown: Meg McLaughlin

**Display** Second Place

**AM-AOS and Best Phrag** Ackers *Phrag* Apple Pie, AM-AOS *Phrag* Memoria Dick Clements x Twilight

**Best of Oncidium Alliance** Ackers *Miltonia* Laurie Kathleen ‘Karen’

**First Place** Ackers *Miltonia* Laurie Kathleen  
Ackers *Phrag* Apple Pie  
Sandy Delamater *Brassavola* Little Star  
Sandy Delamater Paph Henrietta Fujiwara  
Wayne King *Cattleya* intermedia  
Wayne King *Phal* Kingfisher Ruby

**Second Place** Ackers *Phrag* Memoria Dick Clements x Twilight  
Sandy Delamater *Phal* Everspring King x Musachino

**Third Place**

Ackers  
Ackers  
Sandy Delamater

*Epidendrum ilense*  
*Phal* Summer Moon  
Phal Chain Xen Queen 'Orchis'

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 7 p.m. They will meet in the meeting room in the lower level of the Middleton Community Bank at 3207 W. Beltline Hwy, in Middleton. Check with Judy Stevenson for any last minute changes.

**The Orchid Growers' Guild, Inc. (OGG) is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society. It is dedicated to the education of both OGG members and the public about orchids and their culture. OGG also promotes the conservation and appreciation of orchids. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. See our website at [orchidguild.org](http://orchidguild.org) for more information.**

**UP-COMING EVENTS**

- April 7, OGG Spring Orchid Sale, Olbrich Gardens
- April 27-29, 2007, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show in conjunction with Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress, Glencoe IL
- March 23-27, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress will be held in Miami FL



*Colmanara* Wildcat 'Green Valley'



Photographs by Rich Narf

*Masd rex maui titan* CHNAOS x  
*glandulosa* chris