

December
2007

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OGG 22nd Birthday and Holiday Party December 16th

Orchid Quest is just two months away. A lot of ground work has already been by the board. This will be the 21st Orchid Quest that we have sponsored (12th year at the Alliant Center). It comes at a perfect time of year when we all are in the depths of winter and with it "cabin fever". OQ is considered one of the best shows in the Midwest. For me, just being around the gorgeous blooms is a tremendous adrenalin rush. After OQ, it seems that winter turns the corner and I begin looking through gardening catalogues to start planning my summer garden. Be sure to sign up for OQ volunteer opportunities at our December Pot Luck while slots are still open.

We will be taking a look back over the past *twenty-two* years. In 1985, we officially became the Orchid Growers Guild, Inc. On December 27, 1985, we became a non-profit corporation in Wisconsin. On March 22, 1986 we received a *Certificate of Affiliation* from the American Orchid Society. The Guild was formally approved by the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC) in April 1987. I have spent a considerable amount of time reading archival notes and past newsletters to get a sense of where we have come from to get to our present. We owe much to our earlier members that made it possible for all of us to enjoy

what OGG is today. It is what I call, "learning from the past in order to live for today and dream about tomorrow."

Our December 16th Birthday Party is bound to be fun. Please come ready to have some good eating together at a pot-luck meal followed by a time of reminiscing, giving a conservation award to Scott Weber as well as having fun playing games. **Please feel free to bring something from home (plant, potting mixture, plant container, book etc.) to contribute for game prizes.**

Lastly, I wish to thank three of our faithful volunteers who are stepping down from their positions after the party. Jerilyn Gjertson and her sister Dawn Weckler have been in charge of hospitality for well over five years. Sandy Delamater has been the Away Show Chair since the fall of 2005. To all of you, **"Thank You"** for your dedication to OGG.

Judy Stevenson

Meeting Dates

December 16 - Meeting Room
January 20, 2008 - Meeting Room
February 17 - Atrium
March 9 - Meeting Room
March 22 - Orchid Sale with Pansy Sale at Olbrich
April 20 - Meeting Room
May 18 - Meeting Room
June TBA
September 7 - Atrium
October 19 - Atrium
December 14 - Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise noted

Up-coming Events

January 23-27, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress
February 2-3, 2008, Orchid Quest
March 28-30, 2008, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Davenport, IA

Officers and Committees

President:
Judy Stevenson (2008)
judy_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net

Vice President:
Jill Hynum (2009)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:
Annette Minter (2009)
Studio725@charter.net

Treasurer:
Irene Mackie(2008)
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Liaisons:

Alliant: Elaine Malter (2007)
AOS: Jill Hynum (2007)
MAOC: Wayne King
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2007)

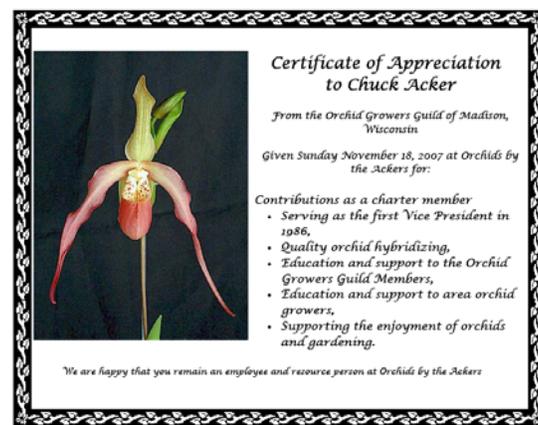
Submit your photos to be included in the newsletter. Every month we want to include a gallery of photos to enjoy. Email your photos to Svetlana (grigkot@gmail.com)



At the November meeting OGG presented Stan and Nancy Skolaski and Chuck Acker Certificates of Appreciation for their years of support. Many thanks to Sue Reed, Gwen Padden-Lechten and Wayne King for their work on this endeavor.



Photographs by Gwen Padden-Lechten



UPDATE ON ACKERS

As most of you know, Orchids by the Ackers is under new ownership as of October 1st, 2007. New owner Kent Franz has appointed Chuck the sole responsibility of procuring and marketing of the orchids for the business. Other changes to the business include the addition of house plants, blooming plants, landscape service, nursery stock, pottery and many more gift items in the future. They are also expanding by adding an additional 12,000 square feet of greenhouse for more retail sales space and growing area. A new name incorporating the present and future services and goods offered along with an updated web site with on-line sales will also compliment the business in the upcoming months.

Also, Chuck and his co-workers, Daniel and Amanda, are implementing a newsletter from the business which will be offered via email or snail mail. If you are interested in being on their list of recipients, simply email them at orchids@chorus.net and use **Newsletter** in the subject line. Please state if you would like to receive the newsletter in paper form by including your mailing address, or by electronic mail.

Chuck also has personal email at the greenhouse for your specific orchid needs and can now be reached at orchidchuck@tds.net



This lovely Laeliocattleya Arctic star 'Snow Queen' above was purchased from J & K Orchids in Neenah in December of 2000. It blooms consistently every year and had three spikes with 12 flowers in October.

We purchased this gorgeous Cattleya maxima semi-alba below from ECUAGENERA in 2004. Initially the flower is near white and in a couple of days it turns light pink. Cattleya maxima is native to Ecuador and we observed it growing high up on trees in the southern part of Ecuador near the Peruvian border.



stood currently, it is the only orchid species endemic to the Sierra Nevada of California.

With an inconspicuous wand-like growth form and tiny flowers, the plant can be easy to miss in meadows densely crowded with a wide variety of plants, including other kinds of bog-orchids.

Taxonomists use several technical features to help distinguish Yosemite bog-orchid from other bog-orchids, including what a discerning nose might call its bouquet. Yosemite bog-orchids

southern Rockies bog-orchid that was also reported from Yosemite National Park in California.

Beginning in 2003, and building on the efforts of previous botanists involved in the search for this mysterious orchid, Colwell and Moore relocated the site where others had collected the orchid, mapped additional sites where they discovered it growing, and searched several plant collections to examine bog-orchid specimens. Then, in consultation with Dr. Charles Sheviak, Curator of Botany at the New York State Museum, they determined the orchid was a new, undescribed species.

"This group of orchids constitutes a notoriously complex problem, and it's only now after nearly 2 centuries of study that we are beginning to understand what the species are," said Sheviak. "I've been studying it for 40 years and have described other new species of *Platanthera*, so I'm used to being surprised. However, to find such a strikingly distinctive plant in such a well-known locality is truly astonishing. The fact that it appears to be confined to such a small geographic area is furthermore unique among related species."

Yosemite bog-orchid is known currently from only nine sites within Yosemite National Park, all on the granitic upland south of Yosemite Valley, between the main stem and the South Fork of the Merced River. It grows in spring-fed areas between 6000 and 9000 feet. As the orchid's range is under-



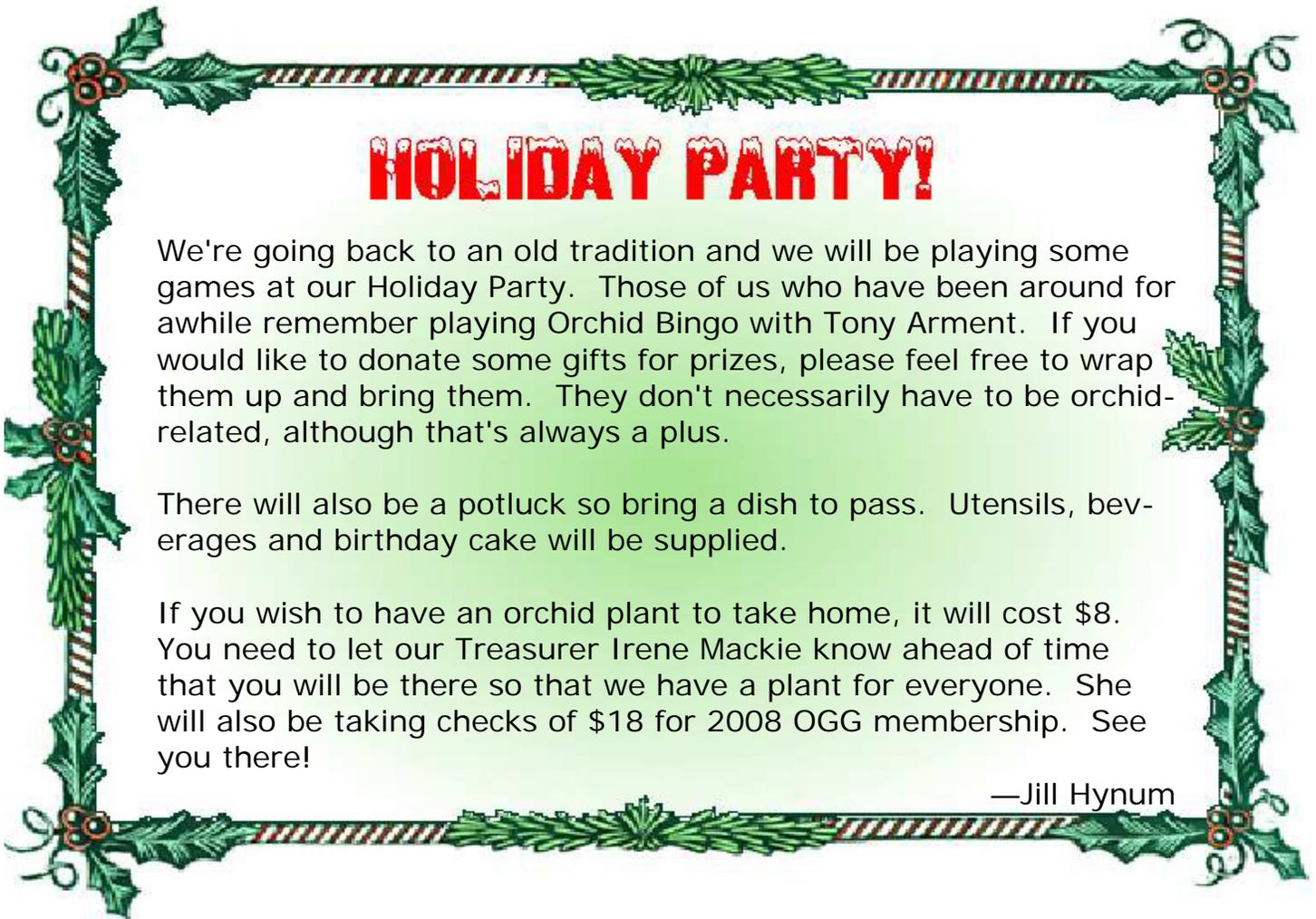
Photograph by Alison Colwell USGS

Yosemite bog-orchid, *Platanthera yosemitensis*

have a strong musk component. Colwell said the species' minute, tennis-ball yellow flowers weren't what first led her to it, but rather the smell. "I was out surveying clovers one afternoon, and I started smelling something. I was like, 'Eew, what's that?'" said Colwell. "It smelled like a horse corral on a hot afternoon." The Yosemite bog-orchid may use this scent to attract mosquitoes or flies for pollination purposes.

Yosemite bog-orchid also keeps company with other endemics in the upland area south of Yosemite Valley. This area, largely free of ice during the most recent glacial events in the last two million years, contains at least seven species of plants known only from the central and southern Sierra Nevada. These include Yosemite onion, Yosemite woolly sunflower, short-leaved hulsea, Yosemite ivesia, and Bolander's clover.

"What a delight to find that, in the 21st century, such gems await discovery, or, in this case, re-discovery, practically in our own backyard," said Colwell. "Doubtless more such finds await us."



HOLIDAY PARTY!

We're going back to an old tradition and we will be playing some games at our Holiday Party. Those of us who have been around for awhile remember playing Orchid Bingo with Tony Arment. If you would like to donate some gifts for prizes, please feel free to wrap them up and bring them. They don't necessarily have to be orchid-related, although that's always a plus.

There will also be a potluck so bring a dish to pass. Utensils, beverages and birthday cake will be supplied.

If you wish to have an orchid plant to take home, it will cost \$8. You need to let our Treasurer Irene Mackie know ahead of time that you will be there so that we have a plant for everyone. She will also be taking checks of \$18 for 2008 OGG membership. See you there!

—Jill Hynum

You know you are addicted to orchids when...

... you have to run to the greenhouse to use Listerine, rubbing alcohol and cinnamon.

November Talk:

Chuck Acker on "Common Pests on Orchids and Other Houseplants" *Common Control Tips*

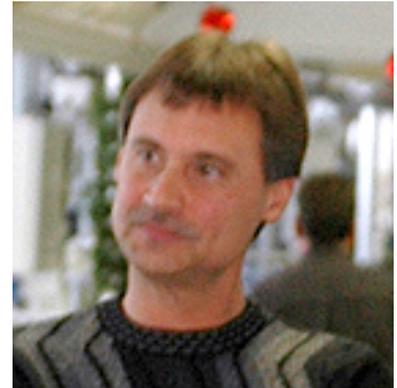
Unfortunately there is not a "one size fits all solution." Many times controlling insects requires using several different tactics. Much like going to a doctor, if one remedy doesn't work, try another. **Read carefully and follow all package directions when using any product.** Methods for controlling insects are quite numerous. Listed below are several commonly used remedies. Any pesticide may cause damage to the plant (phytotoxicity). Testing the product on a few leaves, then waiting a couple of days before proceeding is recommended.

To prevent plant damage from pesticides:

- Mix only according to label directions
- Apply pesticides out of direct sun
- Do not apply pesticides to water stressed plants
- Apply pesticide sprays only to leaves that are dry
- Avoid pesticides from accumulating in leaf axils

To limit exposure to you:

- Apply only in well ventilated places.
- Use disposable "one time only" gloves, and possibly a respirator
- Wash your hands/clothing when finished applying, and after handling your plants
- If exposure to body and clothing is great, shower, and wash affected clothing separately



Chuck Acker

Common Control Methods Listed By Specific Products:*

***Before applying any pesticide, it is often helpful to remove the insects by cleaning:** Cleaning is not only a good physical control and a good place to start, but will also help monitor how well your other controls are working. Scales and mealy bugs require careful scraping off of the adults, and washing the leaves with a mild solution of ivory dishwashing solution and water. Spider mites and aphids are easily knocked off with a steady stream of water.

- **Sticky Traps:** A non-toxic method that actually traps adults and breaks their breeding cycle.
- **Insecticidal Soap:** Kills by smothering or suffocating. Insect contact with the product is essential. Use every 3-5 days, and thoroughly wet all plant surfaces. Although it is a very mild product, it may have some phytotoxic properties, so testing first is recommended. Non-toxic to mammals when used as directed.
- **Neem:** Neem is an organic product derived from the Neem tree of Africa and India. Neem is almost non-toxic to mammals; used in India as an ingredient in toothpaste, soap and cosmetics. Controls insects by poisoning, repelling and also inhibits an insect's ability to reproduce. Also controls some fungi. Apply on a 7-14 day schedule, and spray thoroughly to the point of run-off.
- **Pest Strips:** Plants may be sealed in a plastic bag with a pest strip (out of direct sun) for about 24 hours. The toxic gases from the pest strip in this small enclosed area will "gas" the insects. Remove from plastic, seal the pest strip in a zip lock for future use. Repeat process as necessary at one week intervals. Good to use on plants such as cactus and succulents that are

sensitive to sprays.

- **Pyrethins:** An organic product derived from the Chrysanthemum family. Moderately toxic to mammals. IMPORTANT: ORGANIC DOES NOT MEAN NON-TOXIC! This product works as a stomach and nerve poison. It breaks down quickly in sunlight and has little residual benefit. A short residual is better for the environment, but a disadvantage for lasting performance in controlling insects.
- **Eight:** (Permethrin): A wide spectrum spray that kills on contact and offers a 7-14 day residual. Labeled for use indoors on houseplants, and also labeled for use on vegetables and ornamentals. Moderately toxic.
- **Bayer Advanced™ Garden** (Imidacloprid and Cyfluthrin): A "newer" chemical also known as Merit. This *systemic* product (meaning the chemical is absorbed into the plant tissue) has up to a 30 day residual. May be used on houseplants and is very effective on a wide range of pests including white fly, scale, mealybug, thrips and aphids. Not effective against spider mites. Do not apply in small enclosed areas where spray can be inhaled.
- **Bayer 3 in 1 Insect Disease and Mite control.** Like the Bayer Advanced™ Garden, the Bayer 3 in 1 contains the *systemic* Imidacloprid which is highly effective against a wide range of insect pests, plus it contains a miticide, and fungicide. Do not use in small enclosed areas where spray may be inhaled. For houseplants, move them outside, treat, let dry, and bring indoors.
- **Orthenex®:** Very toxic and to be used OUTDOORS only as a last resort. This systemic product offers up to a 7 - day residual and is very effective against a wide range of insects (including mites).
- **Imidacloprid Granules:** This product contains the same systemic chemical *Imidacloprid* that is contained in Bayer Advanced™ Garden. It is applied to the soil, where it is absorbed by the roots and moves through the entire plant. It is highly effective against scale, mealybug, thrips, whitefly and aphids. It is NOT effective against mites, nor does it travel into the flowers. New growth is protected for up to 8 weeks.
- **Systemic Granules:** (Di-syston) Granules are dug into the soil and the plant takes up the pesticide through the root system. Controls insects for up to 6 weeks. Not usually strong enough to eradicate an infestation, but good to use along with other control measures, and as a preventative. Not very effective on orchids growing in bark. Very toxic, avoid contact with skin. Due to its toxic qualities, this product is being phased out.

• **Common Controls listed by Specific Insect Pests**

Scale: Best results are from using the 'newer' chemicals of Imidacloprid & Cyfluthrin which are both found in the Bayer Advanced™ Garden. Apply 3 applications 7- 10 days apart. Other products such as Insecticidal Soap and Neem can work well too however, they need to be re-applied in close intervals of 3-5 days apart for best results.

Mealybug: The Bayer Advanced™ Garden has proven to be best. Also good results from using Insecticidal Soap, Neem, Orthenex® and Eight.

Aphids: Again, the Bayer Advanced™ Garden has proven to be best. Also good results from using Insecticidal Soap, Neem, Orthenex®, and Eight.

Mites: Orthenex® is most widely recommended for Mites but has a harsh odor and is the most toxic of all the products used by home gardeners. The new Bayer 3 in 1 Insect, Disease and Mite Control is less toxic, has little to no odor and is being found to be the better choice for mites. It also controls many other common plant pests as well. Insecticidal Soap, Neem, Eight, and other Horticultural Oils also work well on mites.

Thrips: Thrips are difficult to control during the summer months, or in conditions of high daytime temperatures. The safest method is to trap them with Blue sticky cards. Bayer Advanced™ Garden and Eight can also yield good results.

Whitefly: Using the Bayer Advanced™ Garden three times at 3-5 day intervals is most effective. Insecticidal Soap and Neem are also effective but you must be careful to make thorough contact between insect and product. Yellow sticky cards are also very effective and non-toxic.

Japanese Beetles: Although these are not commonly attacking Orchids they can create havoc in the summer garden. Keep in mind that no pesticide will completely rid your garden of Japanese Beetles. The pesticides will however, control the overall beetle populations which will reduce the damage they cause. The Bayer Advanced™ Garden Spray has proven to be the most effective along with intermittent applications of Eight and Neem. For trees and shrubs Bayer Advanced™ Garden Tree and Shrub applied about June 1st to the soil at the root zone is highly effective to protect foliage. Unfortunately this product does not travel systemically into the flowers, (so it will not protect your rose blossoms) and can not be used on edible crops.

Fungus Gnats: Yellow sticky cards fastened to a holder and placed in or near the pot yield excellent results. This is a wonderful non-toxic, chemical free and economical method for control.

BEST PLANT— At the conclusion of his talk, Chuck judged the (Paph Greensleeves x Ackers Peak) x Ackers Peak seedlings from last year. **Congratulations to Svetlana Kot** for the best plant. The seedlings to be judged next year are Phal Golden Poeker x Phal Hausermann's Gold Cup.

Common Pests on Orchids and Other Houseplants



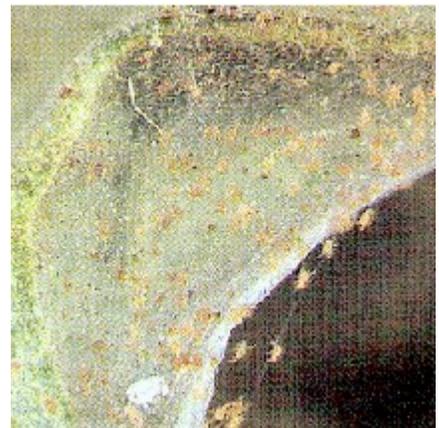
Scale

Scale: Adult females are oval or round soft legless bumps, 1/10" - 1/5" in diameter; males are minute, yellow winged insects. Larvae are minute mobile "crawlers". Scales secrete large quantities of sticky honeydew which is often noticed before the insect itself.

Spider mite: Adults are minute, reddish, pale green or yellow 8-legged, about the size of a grain of pepper, barely visible to the naked eye. Fine webbing is usually found on the underside of the leaves. Eggs hatch in 2-days, nymphs develop to adults in 7 -10 days.

Mealy bugs: Soft, oval, 1/10" insects with distinctly segmented pinkish bodies covered with white sticky cotton-like fluff, usually found on the underside of the leaves or in the crevices where the leaves attach. Mealy bugs sometimes produce sticky honeydew.

Aphids: Adults are pear-shaped 1/32"-1/8" soft fleshy insects. May be green, pink, black, dusty gray, or with white fluffy coating, with or without wings. Colonies develop quickly, and usually are found on bloom shoots and tender new growth.



Spider Mite



Mealy bug



Aphids



Photograph by Gwen Padden-Lechten



Photograph by Rich Narf

November 2007 Membership Meeting Ribbon Judging

First Place

Sandy Delamater
Wayne King
Meg McLaughlin
Meg McLaughlin
Meg McLaughlin
Meg McLaughlin
Richard Narf
Amy Rambow-Larsen
Jody Thistle
Liz Wood

Vanda Pakchong Blue
Phal Baldan's Kaleidoscope
D. bigibbum x D. Chao Praya
Onc Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'
Phrag Sedenii 'Blush'
Lc Angel Heart 'Nora'
Phal belina
Paph fairieanum
Onc Sweet Sugar 'Angel'
Phrag Barbara LeAnn

Second Place

Jeff Baylis
Sandy Delamater
Svetlana Kot
Sarah Lundey
Sarah Lundey
Richard Narf
Lorraine Snyder
Jody Thistle

Onc kinnaree x golden Luis 'Kumsing'
Vanda Gordon Dillon 'Lea'
D. Velvet Phantom x Haleahi Happiness
Blc Iroquois Trail 'Midfarm'
Zygo mackayi x Zygo Kiwi Geyser
Wils Pacific Perspective 'Pacific Heat'
Paph Maudiae x Via Quatal 'Long Life'
Lockhartia lunifera

Third Place

Svetlana Kot
Jody Thistle
Liz Wood

Ocdm Tiger Crow 'Golden Girl'
Lc Acker's Madison x Slc 'Golden Wax'
Doritis pulcherrima 'Aquinii'

Top left, Phal Baldan's Kaleidoscope
grown by Wayne King and above
Phrag Barbara LeAnn grown by Liz
Wood



Photograph by Gwen Padden-Lechten

D bigibbum x D Chao Praya grown by
Meg McLaughlin

Photograph by Rich Narf



On the left, Lc An-
gel Heart 'Nora'
and on the right
Phrag Sedenii
'Blush' both grown
by Meg McLaugh-
lin



Photograph by Gwen Padden-Lechten

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR ORCHID QUEST

Do you have a favorite orchid? Are you a cattleya lover or a phaleanopsis fanatic? You might want to create a special award at Orchid Quest for your favorite orchid. For example, Judy Stevenson and I are talking about creating an award for our favorite slipper orchid at the show. We plan to buy a trophy from The Slipper Alliance which has them available for about \$80.

If you're interested, you will need to provide the award, name it, define the scope (i.e., everything in the cattleya alliance), pick a name and pick the winner (or provide for a method of picking the winner). For some suggestions, you can google "orchid trophies" or go to http://www.nhorchids.org/show2007/show2007_trophies.htm.

Some plant societies also provide a "people's choice" award. I'm not quite sure how this works for orchid shows since there are so many plants. However, if you can think of a way to implement it, let me know. Another possibility would be to have a people's choice award for exhibits.

For the award, you could have a plaque made up or purchase some kind of trophy. Or you could buy something appropriate. Swarovski crystal has several crystal orchids available. There are also places like <http://www.natureglass.com/index.html> which sell glass items with orchids sketched on them.

I will be coordinating any volunteers who want to provide a special award so please let me know if you're interested (jhynum@sbcglobal.net).

Jill Hynum

UP-COMING EVENTS

- ♦ January 23-27, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress will be held in Miami FL the theme for the show is "Orchids–Nature's Masterpiece™."
- ♦ February 2-3, 2008, Orchid Quest
- ♦ March 28-30, 2008, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre, 1717 W. 12th Street, Davenport, IA palwumla@aol.com

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 4th at 7 p.m. They will meet at Judy Stevenson's residence. Let Judy Stevenson know if you plan to attend as well as to obtain the agenda and any last minute changes.

MISSION STATEMENT

Forming friendships by working together in harmony as an organization. For guild members and the public, finding pleasure in being with others who share an excitement for the awe and beauty of orchids (native and tropical).

Understanding more about one of the world's largest flowering families, the orchidaceae. This would include learning their growing cultures, propagation and preservation through formal and informal education that enhances each of our growing abilities.

Nurturing the plant and the world of orchids by supporting local and worldwide environmental conservation projects. Nourish the human spirit and reflect the ideals of AOS and MAOC. Increase general appreciation of orchids through educational opportunities for all.