

# May 2007 The Orchid Grower

*Madison Orchid Grower's Guild*



## **NEXT MEETING WILL BE MAY 20: FIELD TRIP TO FAVILLE PRAIRIE**

We will meet at Olbrich at 12:30 PM to vote for officers before we head to Faville Prairie. Scott Weber, OGG member, Biologist with the DNR and experienced native orchid enthusiast will be the leader. We hope to view native orchids. There will be no orchid judging.

### **Meeting Dates**

- May 20 – Atrium
- June 10 - Picnic

### **Up-coming Events**

- July 29<sup>th</sup>, Speaker's Day, Central Iowa Orchid Society
- January 23-27, 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 Lunday (2007)  
[sarahlunday@charter.net](mailto:sarahlunday@charter.net)

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

**Treasurer:**  
TBA

**Board:**  
Liz Barlow (2008)  
[ebarlow@wisc.edu](mailto:ebarlow@wisc.edu)

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

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

### **FAVILLE PRAIRIE**

Located near the Crawfish River, **Faville Prairie** is one of the largest low prairie remnants in Wisconsin. The prairie is a remnant of the once extensive Crawfish Prairie that covered nearly 2500 acres. It is named for Stoughton W. Faville, a progressive-thinking dairy farmer and self-taught botanist who lived and farmed just north of Lake Mills. He helped Aldo Leopold develop a cooperative game management program. Leopold established the Faville Grove Wildlife Experimental Area, in the area surrounding the Faville homestead.

We take Interstate 94 towards Milwaukee and exit at Lake Mills. Turn left (north.) There is a service garage on the right side of the road where members can wait for the group if they do not want to go to Olbrich first. (See map at the end of the newsletter)

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As I reflect back over the past year, I have much gratitude toward how things with OGG have gone. Elaine Malter was very helpful in passing the reins to me. I have appreciated working with Wayne King, my mentor. We

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have done well at the away show setups earning three blue and two red awards. We had coldest ever Orchid Quest with 600 less people in attendance compared to 2006. Nonetheless, you all pitched in putting in many hours before and during to make OQ run smoothly. We got a lot of positive feed back from the vendors and fortunately the net proceeds were in the black.

For the first year, Lisa Wollering of Channel 15 (NBC) did a live TV broadcast from the Alliant Center, interviewing two vendors and two OGG members (thank you Wayne King and Sue Reed) on Sunday morning over a two hour time period.

Our guild meetings at Olbrich have been interesting and educational. Were we

**Away Shows:**

Sandy Delamater (2007)

**Hospitality:**

Dawn Weckler (2007)  
Jeri Gjertson (2007)

**Librarian:**

Liz Wood (2007)  
[lwood@biochem.wisc.edu](mailto:lwood@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:** TBA  
**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))**



Orchid Grown in media

daunted by a big snow storm January 21<sup>st</sup> when Jeff Baylis talked about some of the orchids in Peru? Although many of you couldn't make it, we still had seventeen people who did. Our most recent venture was the Spring Orchid Sale at Olbrich. Sue Reed, Denise Baylis and I arranged the orchids on Friday. (Orchids by the Ackers sold us some gorgeous flowering plants!) One would have thought that all the cold weather would be gone by April 7<sup>th</sup>, but again we guessed wrong. Nonetheless, on Saturday people came to buy and twelve of the OGG members were on hand to sell orchids and answer consumer questions. We were happy to give Olbrich 10% of our proceeds from this spring sale for the use of their facilities. I hope that being part of OGG has been as much fun this year as it has been for me. I look forward to working with you this next year. Judy Stevenson

Those people who helped at the Spring Sale were: Steve Thimling, Sandy Delamater, Liz Wood, Lorraine Snyder, Irene Mackie, Judy Williamson, Dawn Weckler, Jeri Gjertson, Don Lamb, Denise Baylis, Sue Reed and Judy Stevenson. – Judy Stevenson

## PROPATION OF ORCHIDS AT HOME

Dr. Carol Stiff (who started Kitchen Culture Kits, Inc.) spoke about home propagation of plants.

Orchids are beautiful, mysterious plants which can be easily cultured in your home kitchen "lab" Why would anyone want to culture plant tissue? Because small pieces of a plant can be used to propagate the plant in large numbers. Why propagate a plant in large numbers? As part of a genetic engineering program, or to maintain disease-free plants, or to propagate a valuable plant for commercial purposes.

Carol described the process she has developed to tissue culture plants at home using inexpensive household supplies and "user-friendly" procedures. The process requires a sterile environment, nutrition provided by chemicals in an artificial growing medium, and lots of patience. Some orchid species cannot be tissue-cultured and must be germinated from seed (she also described a process for this.)



Carol Stiff responding to questions

Plant tissue culture involves the growth of a plant cell, tissue, or organ in a sterile environment. The plant piece is disinfected and placed in an environment which will induce growth of axillary buds or adventitious shoots (shoots that develop from places other than a bud). This sterile environment can be easily created in your own home. A "clean box" can be constructed by using a cardboard box lined with plastic or by constructing a frame from plastic tubing and covering it with plastic sheeting. A pressure cooker or microwave can be used to sterilize equipment. Glad containers and/or plastic

baby food jars (with plastic caps) can be used for flasking. The growing media can be stored on shelves at room temperature.

Some of the supplies required such as alcohol, vinegar, baking soda, sugar, dish detergent, hydrogen peroxide and bleach are easily available. With a little hunting agar and pH paper can be found locally. Growth medium and PPM need to be ordered from chemical supply houses.

For more information check her website at [www.kitchenculturekit.com](http://www.kitchenculturekit.com) or email her at [kck@turbonet.com](mailto:kck@turbonet.com)

## GROWING CYMBIDIUMS IN WISCONSIN

Wisconsin actually has good conditions for growing Cymbidium. There are four types of



These two Cymbidiums are from Orchid Quest 2007. Cymbidium Earlie Sue 'Paddy' was grown by Sandy Delamater and won Best of Class, First Place, OGG Vice-President's Award for Best Cymbidium. (Photograph by Jeff Baylis). Cymbidium Lipper 'Autumn Splendor' (below)



Cymbidiums: warm growers, standard, miniature and pendulous. The warm growers are typified by smaller flowers and have a smaller plant growth. The standard size can be a huge plant; both in stature and width, the pseudobulbs usually are larger than a golf ball, closer in size to a tennis ball at maturity. The miniature is not really miniature in size, it can be a large plant but not as large as the standard. The pseudobulb of the miniature is usually the size of a golf ball at maturity. The pendulous Cymbidiums are beautiful; the inflorescences or spikes grow up, out and hang down. The sizes of these are closer to the miniature but may still be a large plant. All of these Cymbidiums are grown the same except for the warm growers, I do not grow these.

In the summer the Cymbidiums love to be outside. I put mine out on the North side of my home where they get a little sun in the morning and afternoon but never any direct sun. The thin leaves of the Cymbidium mean they cannot tolerate any summer midday sun or they will burn. If the day is very hot I will mist my Cymbidiums. This helps them cool down and they love the moisture.

### Fertilizer

I use 20-20-20 fertilizer, ½ tsp. per gal., starting in March. In September I start using 10-50-10 or 10-30-20 a blossom booster, ½ tsp. per gal., up to December. In December I use 20-20-20 or Michigan, ¼ tsp. per gal, until March. I alternate between fertilize, water, fertilize etc. If I need to water more frequently during the summer I will skip the fertilizer once, so I will fertilize, water, water, fertilize, etc.

### Spiking

To help promote spiking Cymbidiums need a temperature change. I leave my Cymbidiums outside until it gets into the

upper 30's at anytime of the day or night. I then put the plants on a table in my garage in front of a South window. They stay in the garage until there is danger of a freeze. My garage stays warm even when it is freezing outside so I use a thermometer on the table with the plants. Last year my



Cymbidium King Arthur 'Round Table'



Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade', from OGG Ribbon Judging April 2007

Cymbidiums were out in the garage until late December. I also watch for spikes. If they do start to spike, I bring them in to my sunroom. I fear blowing the buds at an early stage, but generally speaking I will leave the plants in the garage until the temperature reaches the mid 30's, then they all come into the sunroom. While the plants are in the garage I don't water them as often, since it is cooler. I just monitor them and may water every two weeks. Not all the plants will spike while in the garage, some will spike before going into the garage, and some will spike after coming into the house, sunroom, or greenhouse.



Cymbidium Evening Star 'Pinkie'



Cymbidium Yellow Cascade

When the plants come into the sunroom I put them on old picnic benches in front of the east and south windows, and close, but far enough away that the leaves have enough room to spread. This way the plants still get some nighttime coolness. I keep large containers under the benches to catch excess water, etc. This also gives the plants additional humidity. Usually when the plants come inside, if they have not spiked already, they will shortly. Most of mine spiked after coming into the sunroom.



Cymbidium Red Baker



Peek-a-boo Lexi

Anyone can grow Cymbidiums as long as you can give them the conditions they prefer. All of this information is based on the conditions that I can give my Cymbidiums and it works for me. I hope that this helps and encourages you to try growing a Cymbidium. The reward of the beautiful flowers is worth

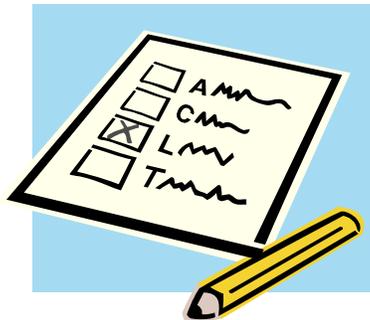
the effort and they last a long time, at least a couple of months. One of mine has lasted since this past January. Happy Growing!

--Sandy Delamater

## NOMINATING TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

We know that spring is definitely in the air when the guild announces a new list of nominees for the OGG board. For those of you who were not there on April 22, we are happy to say the following names and their positions were presented to the membership as follows:

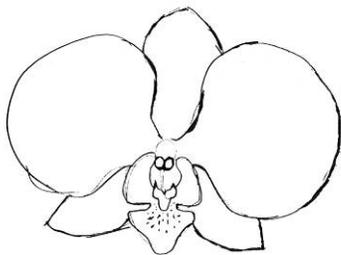
Three year Board representative - Rick Narf (2010)  
Treasurer - Irene Mackie (2008). She is finishing the one year left on Don Fago's position.  
Secretary - Annette Minter (2009)  
Vice-President – Jill Hynum (2009)



At the April OGG meeting, we incorrectly announced that Liz Wood would complete the board position of Jill Hynum. Jill's position on the board is completed May 20, 2007. We apologize for this oversight on our part. We appreciate Liz's willingness to serve on the board but it is not needed this year after all. She will remain the OGG librarian.

This is a review of what guidelines the By-Laws give us for nominations.

"The names of those nominated shall be published in the May Newsletter and formally nominated at the May Meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the May meeting only if duly seconded and written consent of those nominated is presented. The names of those nominated shall be placed on a ballot and read before the Guild at the May Membership meeting. If only one person is nominated for a position, he or she shall be elected by acclamation. However, if more than one person is nominated for a position, each paid-up member, shall be entitled to vote by secret ballot for the contested position. The person receiving the most votes shall be elected. The new Officers and Director shall take office at the end of the meeting during which elections are held."



### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual SPEAKER'S DAY

The Central Iowa Orchid Society is hosting its 19th annual Speaker's Day on July 29, 2007 at Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA. The speakers are George Hatfield of Hatfield Orchids in Oxnard, CA and Peter Lin of Big Leaf Orchids in Dallas TX. George Hatfield will speak on "Miniaturized Cymbidiums" and "Pendulous Cymbidiums." Peter Lin will speak on "The Importance of *Phalaenopsis gigantea* in Modern Novelty Hybrids" and

"The Use of *Phalaenopsis* Species in the Development of Modern Red Hybrids by American Hybridizers".

The registration fee for the event is \$25.00 per person in advance or \$30.00 per person at the door. The cost covers all the speakers as well as a continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon dessert bar. With your paid admission you also get a ticket for the door prize drawings held throughout the day. Both speakers will have plants for sale throughout the day so attendees may have a chance to buy plants usually not available locally. For more information refer to [www.c-we.com/cios](http://www.c-we.com/cios)

### ERRATA:

The *Epidendrum ilense* awarded third place at the New Orchid Society Show should have been credited to Jeff Baylis.

## DISCUSSION OF SOME ORCHIDS AT APRIL RIBBON JUDGING



Photograph by Svetlana Kot

Sandy Delamater's *Lycaste cruentia* is a species. This *Lycaste* has seven bulbs, which means it is seven years old; this is the first flowering for this plant. She said that she listened to our speaker on *Lycaste* from last fall, Leo Schordje. After it had lost all its leaves she stopped watering it and allowed it to dry. When she noticed a new growth around March and then began watering it and it "took off". Once the new growth got about 2 inches tall she noticed four little shoots or spikes coming up from the base of the new growth with one bud on each. As you saw at the April meeting two of the flowers are blooming. She grows her *Lycastes* in sphagnum moss and is careful with watering. She lets them dry a little, but not totally before watering them again.



Photograph by Steve Thimling

Steve Thimling's *Polystachya campylossa* is grown on a light cart which has humidity trays and fluorescent lights. The flowers are fragrant throughout the day but especially during the morning when you can smell it a few feet away. Currently there are four spikes in bloom and buds and four more spikes still developing. It has bloomed reliably for him every year. It is fertilized weekly for three weeks followed by a watering the fourth week to flush. It does not like to dry out and gets sprayed just about every morning for a few seconds. Steve purchased the plant from J&L Orchids September 2002 at the Wisconsin Orchid Society show in Milwaukee.



Photograph by Denise Baylis

OGG Ribbon judges Svetlana Kot, Lorraine Snyder, Rich Narf and Wayne King



Photograph by Denise Baylis

Wayne King said *Phragmipedium calurum* grows like a weed and will bloom all summer. When a plant gets larger, spikes may branch and it may have multiple spikes.



Photograph by Denise Baylis

Wayne King's SLC Jewel Box Scheherazade is an example of a plant that was mericloned by the millions. These are nice compact plants with medium sized red flowers, 2 to 3 flowers per stem.



Photograph by Rich Narf

Rich Narf described his *Leptotes bicolor* as an interesting orchid because the bloom appears to be upside down. He purchased it from Oak Hill about a year ago. He grows it under lights. It is watered by a sprayer every other day. He also soaks it a couple of times a month. The bloom just opened yesterday.

## Results of March 25, 2007 Membership Meeting

### First Place:

Sandy Delamater  
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Don Fago  
Jill Hynum  
Svetlana Kot  
Lorraine Snyder

*Cymbidium* Evening Star 'Pinkie'  
Phal Everspring King x Musachino  
*Dialaelia* Snowflake 'Northland'  
*Oncidium sphacelatum* 'Milo'  
*Sedirea japonica*  
*Paph primulinum* var *alba*  
Phrag Mem Dick Clements x  
Waunakee Sunset

### Second Place:

Wayne King  
Svetlana Kot  
Meg McLaughlin  
Lorraine Snyder  
Jody Thistle  
Unknown  
Unknown

*Cattleya aurantiaca*  
Tolumnia Magic 'Hildos'  
Memorial Dick Clements  
Paph Oto  
*Cymbidium* Alexandrae  
Phal No Name  
*Oncidium* Tiger Crow

### Third Place:

Wayne King  
Meg McLaughlin  
Meg McLaughlin  
Richard Narf

Phal Ming-Hsing 'Yellow Boy'  
Phrag Eric Young  
*Oncidium* Sharry Baby  
*Sedirea japonica*

Lorraine Snyder  
Unknown

Paph (Nulight x Gigi)  
Epi. Green Hornet

April Ribbon Judging results, MAOC Show results and photographs will be in the June newsletter.

## **MAOC CORNER**

Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC) is an affiliation of about 60 local orchid societies located from the Florida panhandle in the south to southern Ontario, Canada in the north and Ohio to Oklahoma going east and west respectively. MAOC is celebrating its 55 year anniversary. All active Wisconsin Orchid Societies are members. Each society has a representative to the Congress who is to represent their society at semi-annual meetings of the Congress. Occasionally, the Congress meets jointly with the American Orchid Society (AOS) Board of Trustees. (AOS is celebrating its 75 year anniversary). MAOC Orchid societies may apply for admission and the Congress votes at one of its meetings to entertain membership. The Guild has been a member for most of its history.

The Congress elects officers and has a number of committees, some for the internal workings of the Congress and others, such as the Awards Committee, Affiliated Societies Committee, Publications Committee, Show Schedule Committee, Education Committee, and Conservation Committee provide valuable services on behalf of the orchid growing community. News and information about the Congress appears at their website: [www.Midamericanorchids.org](http://www.Midamericanorchids.org).

The MAOC Show Schedule is the schedule the Guild uses for plant and exhibit judging at Orchid Quest. That schedule is periodically revised by MAOC as its Show Committee reviews the results of judging at AOS judged shows. At each Congress, there is a morning breakfast attended by representatives of member societies to exchange information on a particular topic. The Conservation Committee receives an allocation of funds from MAOC to fund specific orchid conservation projects. Most funding for the MAOC comes from the semiannual Saturday night auction of donated items. Each society that belongs pays dues to help support the important work of MAOC.

MAOC semiannual meetings are sponsored by one or more member societies. The Guild has co-sponsored one meeting with the Wisconsin Orchid Society and provided some financial assistance to help with the cost of this meeting. Subsequently the financial assistance was repaid. Fees charged to attend the MAOC meetings are used to offset costs incurred by host societies for meeting rooms and other costs.

Having been the Guild's representative for many years in the past I was actively involved on the Guild's behalf in attending meetings around the Midwest and serving on the MAOC Conservation Committee. I feel that this membership and presence helps to give the Guild VISIBILITY in fulfilling its mission as noted in its By-Laws.

Wayne King (April 23, 2007)

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 6:45 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

- July 29<sup>th</sup>, Speaker's Day, Central Iowa Orchid Society
- January 23-27, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress, Miami, FL. The theme is "Orchids – Nature's Masterpiece™."

