

April 2008 **The Orchid Grower**

Madison Orchid Growers' Guild



Meeting Dates

April 20 - Meeting Room
 May 18 - Meeting Room
 June - June 14
 September 7 - Atrium
 October 19 - Atrium
 December 14 - Meeting Room
 January 18—Meeting Room
 February 15—Meeting Room
 March 15—Meeting Room
 April 19— Atrium
 May 17—Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise noted

Up-coming Events

April 5-6, Illinois Orchid Society Show
 July 27—Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day
 September 5-7, Fall MAOC , Mason OH
 January 31—February 1, Orchid Quest
 April 11, 2009 –Spring Orchid Sale

Coming Next Month.....

- Report on MAOC
- March Ribbon Judging
- Illinois meeting results

NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 20th, 1:30 p.m.

Tom Gibson: *Calypso bulbosa*, Rare Orchid in the Wilderness

Tom Gibson has been seeking out wild populations of our native orchid species since he was eight years old. He started growing tropical orchids at age 11. At age 18, in 1965, Gordon Dillon of the AOS made him Honorary Editor of the AOS Bulletin for one issue, which was devoted to youth and orchids. Tom received his doctoral degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Utah on Competition, Disturbance, and the Carnivorous Plant Community in the southeastern United States. In 1972, he traveled through Borneo and New Guinea, in



*part, to collect orchids and carnivorous *Nepenthes* pitcher plants.*

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Tom will show slides of this charming, delicate and locally endangered native orchid taken at various places throughout its range, its enchanted old-growth habitat of coniferous forest, and discuss critical aspects of its ecology. Other native orchid species will be shown also.

THIS AND THAT FROM THE VEEP

Olbrich has some new orchids! According to an article in a recent newsletter, they purchased some plants, mostly Stanhopeas, from the collection of a San Francisco area ophthalmologist. This particular collector has won a number of AOS awards on his plants so Olbrich was glad to have the opportunity to make a purchase.

In other news from Olbrich, they are soliciting money towards participating in propagation programs using orchid seeds collected by Conservatory Curator John Wirth. They've collected \$500 towards a target of \$2,000. So, if you're looking for a conservation effort to participate in, here's your chance.

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)
Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com

Board:

Liz Barlow (2008)
eabarlow@wisc.edu

Svetlana Kot (2009)
grigkot@gmail.com

Rich Narf (2010)
znarf@execpc.com

Away Shows:

Judith Rapacz
jorapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu

Hospitality:

David Kahlway
riceguy1@juno.com

Librarian:

Liz Wood (2008)
lwood@biochem.wisc.edu

Membership:

Board of Directors

Newsletter:

Svetlana Kot
Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest:

Board of Directors

Programs:

Elaine Malter

Ribbon Judging:

Lorraine Snyder
Jody Thistle

Web Master:

Svetlana Kot
grigkot@gmail.com

Liaisons:

Alliant: Elaine Malter (2007)

AOS: Jill Hynum (2007)

MAOC: Wayne King

Judith Rapacz

Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2007)

For those of you who grow under lights, there's a new option to tempt you – the "LED UFO" (it looks like a UFO). Paradigm Gardens describes it as "the most revolutionary plant lighting product since the inception of High Pressure Sodium lights". It consumes only 80 watts of power and produces almost no heat. The bad news is it costs close to \$600. However, it saves a lot in electricity costs. Paradigm can't keep them in stock and has a waiting list. For more information, see their web site at <http://www.paradigmgardens.com/>.

Speaking of Paradigm, they have a promotional offer right now. If you fill out a short survey and give them your email address, you get a free gift. I selected a safari hat. Other options included t-shirts, magnifiers, and more.

I've been asked to write something about the World Orchid Congress. There's so much to choose from but a few things come to mind. A speaker from South America described conservation efforts in his country. We all probably know by now about the problem of clear cutting swathes of Amazonian forests where orchids live. However, this speaker described a slightly different problem in his country involving coffee trees and cattleyas. Growers were convinced that cattleyas would harm the trees so they would routinely hack away at any cattleyas they could reach. His conservation group not only convinced them that the cattleyas could be safely left in the trees, he also persuaded some farmers to place the cattleyas elsewhere if they had to take down a tree. He showed us a picture of a long, log fence with cattleyas growing all over it. How would you like to have a fence like that!

A number of speakers stressed the importance of plant sharing as a conservation technique. If you have something rare, don't hoard it. Try to propagate it and give to other growers. Ideally, you'd want to pick someone who has some success with growing.

OGG NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVED

Many thanks to Svetlana Kot for her hard work scanning the back issues of the OGG newsletter! We now have all 20 years available on CD. If you wish to have a copy, contact Jody Thistle.

There was a book I was really tempted to buy – Tropical Slipper Orchids by Harold Koopowitz. It was published about a week before WOC. Harold Koopowitz was present at WOC and available at a book signing.

Unfortunately, the book is really big and heavy so while I was debating whether I wanted to deal with that in my luggage, they sold out. What's different about this book is it's a history of the hybridizing of slipper orchids, rather than a discussion of the species. Koopowitz said he couldn't keep up given the pace of hybridizing these days so he just had to go with what he had. It's still on my to buy list. In three years the next WOC is back in Singapore. The WOC is a great event so start saving your money now and maybe you can make it to Singapore. — Jill Hynum

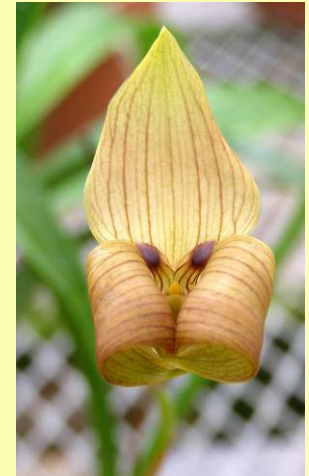
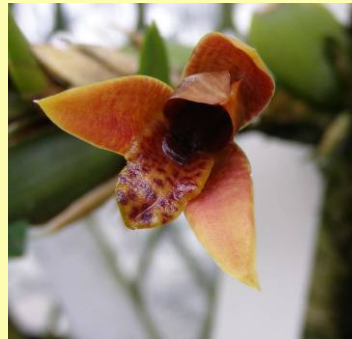
Submit your photos to be included in the newsletter. Every month we want to include a gallery of photos to enjoy. Email your photos to Svetlana (grigkot@gmail.com) and Denise (jrbaylis@tds.net)

GREENHOUSE TOUR

At our March meeting we did something a little different. John Wirth, Conservatory Curator, give OGG members a tour of a few of the Olbrich greenhouses. Several contain both orchids and carnivorous plants. High benches with circulating hot water pipes below them are organized by genera. Automatic vents and sunshades operate in response to changing temperature and light levels, providing a noisy backdrop to an otherwise serene environment. Others greenhouses are used for propagating plants used in various Olbrich activities.



John Wirth among the greenhouse orchids above; some of the vents and sunshades used to regulate the environment (left)



Some of the New World miniature orchids observed in the greenhouses: from left to right, *Isochilus linearis*, *Maxillaria houtteana*, *Mormolyca ringens* and *Trigonidium egertonianum*

SPRING ORCHID SALE

THANK YOU to the volunteers who worked at the orchid show. The snow on Friday and Saturday meant that some of them couldn't make it. I wanted to let all of you know that in spite of the snow, we did very well. We purchased 100 plants from ORCHIDS, and sold all but seven. Just as I was leaving Olbrich on Saturday afternoon, three people saw me carrying 4 cymbidiums. Would you believe that I had the good fortune of selling three of those plants before I walked out the door? Denise took home six orchid plants which she is plant-sitting until our guild's meeting April 20th, where they will be sold at our cost. There are 4 Epidendrums (radicans-type) \$14, 1 P. Long Pride Treasure \$15, 1 Colmanara Wildcat 'Green Valley' \$14 and 1 Phaius \$12.

Considering the snow, I feel that we were very fortunate. Having fantastic plants from Orchids Garden Centre and Nursery makes our work much easier. Once again we have proven that we are a strong and healthy organization because we band together to help one another and the Olbrich Botanical Garden. 10% of our sales will be forwarded to Olbrich. —Judy Stevenson

19th World Orchid Show Quilt Exhibit



Quilt Photographs by Sue Reed



Not only were there thousands of live orchids to admire at the 19th World Orchid Show but there were other exhibits as well. There were quilts, cakes.....



Flamingo, porcelain and parrot photographs by Jill Hynum; cake photographs by Sandy Delamater



Annette Minter's hand painted porcelain from Orchid Quest



... Believe it or not these cakes are made entirely by hand, including the orchids on them. There were exhibits of photographs enhanced by paint, orchid jewelry, center-pieces as well as jewelry, center pieces, etc., etc. It was amazing to see all the ways that Orchids were presented!



These are some more photos of the a WOC winner from Sue Reed. This Pink Phalaenopsis was shipped from France as a cut flower and arrived in such great shape that it won four awards! Among them were Best Phal, Best Pink Phal and Best Cut flower.

NOMINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

The nominating committee consists of Gwyn Padden-Lechten, Jill Hynum and Judy Stevenson. Several terms expire this spring including President, Treasurer and one board position. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Jill.

You know you are addicted to orchids when...

.... you stand for two hours in a heavy rainstorm holding an umbrella over your mounted phalaenopsis so it doesn't get crown rot.

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW March 1-2

Exhibit set up by: Judith and Jan Rapacz, **First Place for Exhibit**

Exhibit taken down by: Judith and Jan Rapacz and Audrey Lucier

Best Cymbidium Alliance

First	Chuck Acker	Cymbidium Evening Star
	Audrey Lucier	Paphiopedilum Annabellchen (liemanianum x delenatii)
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Lycaste cruenta</i>
	Sue Reed	Phal. Nobby's Amy Blush
	Chuck Acker	Phrag Les Landes
	Chuck Acker	Cymbidium Evening Star
	Chuck Acker	Dial Snowflakes
Second	Audrey Lucier	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>
	Gary Brendemuehl	Paphiopedilum Grand Odette (Grand Illusions 'Tweaked' x Odette's Glory 'Black Bess')
	Gary Brendemuehl	Lc Dinard x Lc Bonanza
	Sandy Delamater	Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara
	Sandy Delamater	Paph. Lady Luck
	Sandy Delamater	Phrag. Jason Fischer
	Sue Reed	Paph Hanes Green Honda (LaHonda x Jolly Green Gem)
	Sue Reed	Lycaste (skinneri '389' x Shoalhaven)
Third	Sue Reed	Phrag. (besseae 'Haven' x besseae 'Smokin')
	Chuck Acker	Den Spring Dream
	Chuck Acker	Phrag Waunakee



Photographs of OGG's First Place exhibit by Judith Rapacz

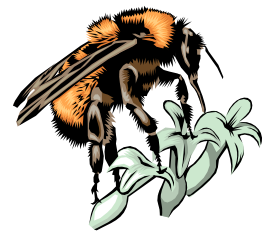


FROM SCOTT WEBER

THANK YOU Judy and OGG members, thanks for all the support. The DOT ruled against the proposed alternative route at the Feb. 26th meeting. We were able to generate over 100 letters in addition to several land owners opposed to the change. I saw the blueprint for the first time on the 26th, and it would have also obliterated my neighbor's farmstead (the original farmhouse for our land and the house of George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation), so George thanks you as well for the input as it would have affected him a lot more than us. I took a long snow shoe hike with my husky (even he got tired of breaking trail and followed behind in my snow-shoe path!) on Sunday around the property, grateful that I did not have to envision a four lane highway coming through our wetland and losing my favorite neighbor (George and I bought our properties within months of each other twenty years ago). I will continue to advocate for transportation alternatives so that fewer landowners will have to face a similar fate. Pass along my gratitude to all the club members, Scott Weber .

FIFTEEN MILLION YEARS AGO...

Fifteen million years ago, somewhere in a tropical forest in the current Dominican Republic, a worker stingless bee (*Proplebia dominicana*, now extinct) landed on a tree trunk, likely to groom herself after visiting a flower. She landed on a fresh patch of tree sap instead, and became mired and then en-



This *Gongora armeniaca* bloomed for Sandy Delamater last July.

gulfed in the still-flowing resin. Totally engulfed in sap, with no exposure to air, the worker bee was preserved in every detail, allowing it to be clearly identified. But it was the 'package' stuck to the dorsal surface of its thorax that made this find truly unique. There, glued to the bee, was an intact and also exquisitely preserved orchid pollinarium. This single fossil represents the "... first unambiguous fossil of Orchidaceae..."; a unique find that merited publication as a cover story in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature* (Vol. 448:30 Aug. 2007 pp. 1042-1045).

Why are there no other orchid fossils? Orchid foliage and woody parts are quite non-descript, and would be difficult to identify as conclusively belonging to Orchidaceae. Flowers of *anything* are rarely preserved as fossils. However, other flowering plants leave an unambiguous fossil record in the form of pollen, which can be highly diagnostic. Here one of the special properties of the orchids is key. Orchids tend to encapsulate their pollen into a single package (pollinarium) containing millions of pollen grains. Thus, you cannot look for individual pollen grains, you would have to find the pollinarium. This is the first such fossil ever found, and it shows that 15 million years ago orchids had the same complex relationship with insect pollinators, and especially the wasps and bees, that they have today.

In the orchids, the pollinarium can be as diagnostic as pollen grain structure is in other flowering plants. The orchid this pollinarium came from is a new genus and species (*Meliorchis caribea*), now extinct, in the orchid subtribe Goodyerinae. The

living species of this subtribe are also pollinated by social bees, but the pollinarium is attached to the mouthparts of the pollinator, not the thorax. Therefore, the authors infer, this extinct genus of orchid likely had a tubular structure forcing the bee to enter the flower, as this is the only way the pollinarium could be attached to the thorax. Thus, in a single fossil we have evidence that 15 million years ago there were social bees, these had been pollinators of orchids, and orchid flowers had evolved structures to take advantage of insect behavior. Based on this fossil as a time referent, the authors put the evolutionary origin of the Orchidaceae at about 80 million years before present, shortly before the mass extinction at the Cretaceous–Tertiary boundary 65 million years ago.

—Jeff Baylis



Don Fago submitted this photograph of a *Stanhopea contata* that had just bloomed.

UP-COMING EVENTS 2008

- April 5-6, Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL
- April 12-13, Ann Arbor Orchid Society Show, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.
- May 24-25, Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society Show, GTC Civic Center 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City, MI
- July 27, Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day, Camp Dodge, 7105 NW 70th Ave., Johnston, IA
- September 5-7, Fall MAOC in conjunction with the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society, Mason, OH

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 29, 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.