

February
2008

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild



OGG's ORCHID QUEST, FEBRUARY 2 AND 3 Next Meeting February 17

Elaine Malter has come up with a great line-up of speakers for OQ this weekend. Go to page 7 to see the line-up. Note that our next meeting will be held in the Atrium. Rather than inviting a speaker, this meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the success of OQ. As you participate this weekend, keep in mind things that went well as well as those that need improvement for next year.

Meeting Dates

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

February 2-3, Orchid Quest
February 16-18, Batavia Orchid Society Show
March 1-2, Northeast Wisconsin Orchid Society Show
March 28-30, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Davenport, IA
April 5-6, Illinois Orchid Society Show

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 Denise jrbaylis@tds.net

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Orchid Quest 2008 is just a few days away. This will be our 22nd orchid show and is not an easy feat. Thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and talents, you to make this year's show possible. Please look for the new fifteen and thirty second advertising spots on Channel 3 (WISC) and Channel 15 (WMTV).

I have just returned from the 19th World Orchid Conference that was held in Miami from January 22nd through January 27. It was hosted by two Florida orchid societies.

Education seminars ran from 9 AM until 5 or 6 PM through Saturday. There were over one hundred vendors from all parts of the world. Orchids, orchid plant products, books, glassware, and clothing were among the things for sale. OGG was fortunate to have six of our OGG members at this conference. I hope you will hear from them in the coming months about their experience.

Sandy Delamater had a chance to visit the American Orchid Society (AOS) at Delray Beach. They have a new logo in the ORCHIDS magazine and on correspondence from headquarters. Education, conservation, and recreation remain an integral part of their mission. For 2008, AOS has a goal to be more attentive to the membership needs. They are creating a new web site which should debut sometime during January 2008. In this web site, under your own password, you will be able to renew membership. Normally membership to AOS is \$60 annually. However, for the next two

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Alliant: Elaine Malter (2007)

AOS: Jill Hynum (2007)

MAOC: Wayne King

Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2007)

months (February and March) you can renew or sign-up for membership at the reduced cost of \$49.95. To join or renew, call 561-404-2062 or e-mail aosmembers@aos.org. Offer expires March 31, 2008.

—Judy Stevenson

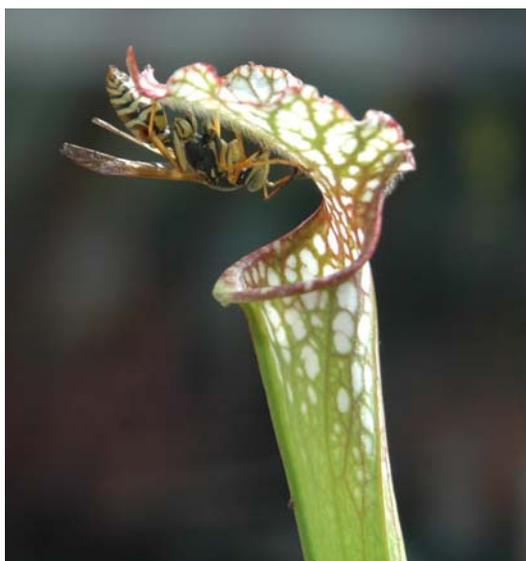
JANUARY TALK

Jeff Baylis on “Carnivorous Plants as Companion Plants to Orchids”

Although Jeff is an animal behaviorist by training, he turns to botany for pleasure. He is particularly interested in how plants manipulate their environment to facilitate reproduction and/or capture prey. Among his orchids he keeps a variety of carnivorous plants. Not only do they both enjoy similar growing environments but carnivorous plants capture some of the pests that are the hazards of indoor growing conditions. Jeff brought some examples and several members had an opportunity to take one home.

There are approximately 600 species of carnivorous plants (plants that use enzymes to digest animal prey for nutrients). This is less than 2% of all known flowering plant species. The grasses and the orchids, the two most species-rich families of higher plants, contain no carnivorous species. Many of the carnivorous plants are ‘oddballs’, belonging to genera or even families of plants with only one or two species, often found only in very narrow geographic ranges. However, a few general like the bladderworts (*Utricularia*) and the sundews (*Drosera*) contain over 100 species and are present on every continent save Antarctica.

Orchids are generally cultivated for their often elaborate and showy flowers,

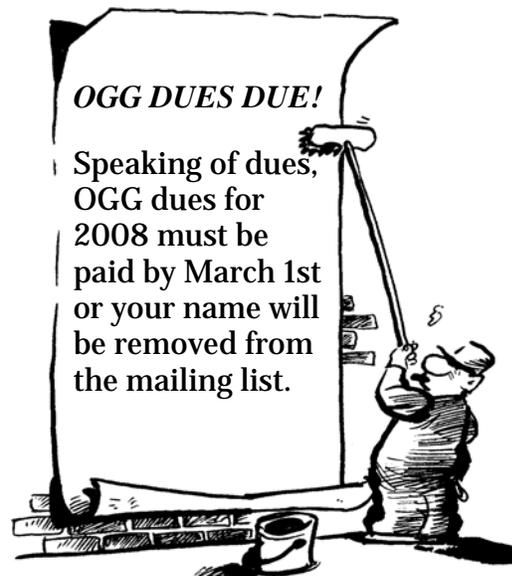


Photograph by Jeff Baylis

Sarracenia leuchophylla

which have evolved to attract insect pollinators. In contrast, in carnivorous plants it is generally the leaves that have evolved to attract and capture insect prey. The flowers of most carnivorous plants are quite non-descript. The leaves may be showy but largely passive traps for insect prey, as in the pitcher plants of North America, or may be active traps that work in rapid motion as in the Venus’ Flytrap, or traps that work in slow motion as in the many species of sundew. This is in some ways fortunate, as the leaves last much longer than the flowers!

What makes carnivorous plants





Photographs by Jeff Baylis

Nepenthes above; Close-up of a sundew below



good companion plants for orchids is the living conditions they share. Most carnivorous plants are found in habitats with abundant light and water (including high humidity), but very few available nutrients. By capturing insect prey and digesting them for their nutrient content, carnivorous plants are able to thrive in habitats that challenge species lacking this advantage. Hence, carnivorous plants occur world-wide in open bogs and fens with few trees or brush cover. Terrestrial orchid species commonly occur with them in these same habitats.

There are three genera of carnivorous plants that I feel are the best bets for windowsill growing with orchids. All three share common culture requirements, and are the most likely to show up at Home Depot or a flower show. Here they are in the order of the likelihood you will encounter them for sale commercially:

The Asian pitcher plants of the genus *Nepenthes* grow as vigorous and rather showy vines. The larger forms are grown most easily in hanging baskets. Many hybrids selected for the form and color of the pitchers exist. To the best of my knowledge, every species in the genus can be crossed with every other species, and these

crosses have been produced since the middle of the 19th Century. The pitchers are produced facultatively from the tips of tendrils that grow in turn from the tips of the leaves. Many species and crosses produce two forms of pitchers, one form low on the plant and a completely different form near the top. Do NOT fertilize a *Nepenthes*; if you do it will cease to produce pitchers, and grow only ordinary leaves. The plants are easily cultivated, so long as you never let them dry out and water them only with rainwater or distilled water.

The North American pitcher plants of the genus *Sarracenia* grow as herbaceous perennials with a rhizome. The genus ranges from northern Florida to the Northwest Territories near the Arctic Circle in Canada. One species, *S. purpurea*, encompasses this entire range, including Wisconsin. The center of diversity for this plant is in the southeastern US, especially the Florida Panhandle. Elaborate hybrids have been produced by selective breeding. As with the *Nepenthes*, every species in the genus can be crossed with every other to produce a bewildering array of cultivars. Again, never let them dry out and always water with rain water.

The sundews of the genus *Drosera* are the third group you are likely to come across. The two most common species in cultivation are *D. capensis*, the Cape Sundew, and *D. binata*, the fork-leaved sundew. These are respectively from South Africa and Australia. Both should be kept wet at all times, and watered only with rainwater. Sundews beat sticky-traps for catching fungus gnats and fruitflies!

For all of the above genera, the following cultural practices apply:

- **Water:** Keep them with wet feet at all times. I grow them in pots standing in trays of water 1-2 cm deep. Water only with rainwater.
- **Soil:** I pot them in a 50:50 mix of Canadian peat and silica sand. Avoid sand with any limestone in it. Rinse any sand with water before using it.

- **Light:** Nepenthes like bright light but avoid full sun. Phal.-like light levels.

The following websites give useful cultural information:

<http://www.carnivorousplants.org/>

<http://www.californiacarnivores.com/>

The OGG Point System, How it Works and How it Evolved

Part II: Awarding of Points for Exhibits

by Wayne King

During the early years of the Guild, there was no point system and no awards for setting up and taking down exhibits. Partly, this was because the Guild had an Away Show Team (Anne Orcutt and John Diehl) who eagerly volunteered to do all of the Away Shows. By 1995, it was necessary to begin to recruit other Guild members to set up and take down displays.

At the February 14, 2000 Board meeting, the Guild approved a system for awarding exhibitor points. Up to three members were awarded points for setup and 12 points were divided among them. Each member participating in tear down was awarded 2 points—limited to three members. Points were also provided for an exhibit award but policy did not specify how these were to be distributed.

On January 7, 2002, The Guild's Board of Directors' Awards Policy included two areas of awards that recognized the importance of exhibits. These were as follows: "Participation and excellence in all activities which make possible the presentation of orchid displays on the Guild's behalf" and "Recognition of individual initiative and creativity in the presentation of displays on the part of individual members at Guild sponsored events."

The 2002 Guild Exhibit Policy awarded 5 points to each Guild member "for any tasks leading to the assembly and registration of the display". This excluded the arranging for participation in any show. In addition, each Guild member assembling or registering the exhibit will earn points based upon any award for the display. Finally, any Guild member disassembling the exhibit, returning the exhibit, and/or recording the results were given 5 points. Similarly, points were awarded in the same manner for Displays by individual members at Guild sponsored events. The award for the Guild exhibit was a "framed certificate" and a cash award and for the best individual exhibit was a framed certificate.

Current policy is based upon revisions dated 12/03. This policy rescinded point policy created in 2002 and returned the points earned to the original policy approved in February 2000.

Summary

Initial and current Guild policy permit no more than 3 persons to earn award points for setup or takedown. Points are earned in proportion to workload since 12 points for setup and 6 points for takedown must be split evenly among those doing the setup or takedown. Activities performed which are performed by persons other than those doing the setup or takedown are not eligible to earn award points. These might include preparing labels or entry tags, picking



Dendrobium gordonii x self, from the Bolz Conservatory

up supplies at the locker or delivering supplies to the locker, etc. Board policy in 2002 changed policy to give the same number of points to anyone assisting with the display. That change was overturned in 2003.

One weakness in the current policy is that there is no credit for “additional” persons helping with the display. This especially applies to the Orchid Quest exhibit where it is not uncommon to have 5 or more Guild members assisting. Current policy requires that someone decide which 3 Guild members are entitled to award points. It also creates inequities since some Guild members are awarded points and others are not.



Photograph by Sandy Delamater

Stanhopea wardii

Future Considerations

To overcome the shortcoming of current policy when four or more persons participate in the display, assign 3 points for setup and 2 points for takedown for each additional person. Without a timekeeper there is no way of providing more points to a person who spends 6-8 hours working on a display versus a member who may be there for only an hour or two. Also, while it would be desirable to provide an award point to those assisting in activities leading to a display, this would impose a record keeping burden not now present.



HOSPITALITY

OGG is still looking for someone to volunteer to take over Hospitality.

Please contact a member of the Board if you are interested.

Ribbon Judging December 2007 Membership Meeting

First Place	Jeff Baylis	<i>Laelia Rubescens</i>
	Sandy Delamater	Vanda Gordon Dillon 'Lea'
	Annette Minter	Phalaenopsis Half Chuck's Surprise
	Steve Thimling	<i>Bulbophyllum dentiferum</i>
	Steve Thimling	Vasco Pine Rivers
	Grower Unknown*	<i>Phalaenopsis violacea</i> x self
Second Place	Grower Unknown*	Oncidium Gold Dust (twinkle x cheiroporum)
	Sandy Delamater	Oncidium Twinkle
	Sandy Delamater	Cymbidium Red Baker 'Benjamin'
	Jill Hynum	Wilsonara Red Pacific 'Deep Shadows'
	Steve Thimling	Phrag Eric Young
	Steve Thimling	<i>Masdevallia infracta</i>
	Wayne King	Paphiopedilum Clifton Booth
	Wayne King	Cattleya Bering Sea
	Wayne King	Doritaenopsis I-Sin Idol
	Grower unknown*	Phalaenopsis Pixie Plum 'Little Jack' x self
Third Place	Rich Narf	Epidendrum 'Green Hornet' (cochleatum 'Spyhill' x Lancifolium)
	Rich Narf	Paphiopedilum 'Chuck's Surprise' (Acker's Pinnacle x Duncan York)

* If you are the 'Unknown Grower', let Lorraine Snyder know so that points can be credited to you

Ribbon Judging January 2008 Membership Meeting

First Place	Irene Mackie	Dendrobium Adree Millar (atroviolaceum x convolutum)
	Jeff Baylis	Bc. Maikai 'Mayumi'
	Svetlana Kot	<i>Paphiopedilum primulinum album</i> x sib
	Steve Thimling	<i>Sigmatostalix Marinii</i>
Second Place	Jeff Baylis	Tolumnia (Kinnaree x Golden Luis) 'kumsing'
	Gwyn Padden-Lechten	Tolumnia 'Elfin Gem'
	Steve Thimling	Phragmipedium Eric Young
	Steve Thimling	<i>Mediocalcar decorata</i>
	Wayne King	Paphiopedilum Clifton Booth
Third Place	Svetlana Kot	Potinara Hoku Gem 'Precious'
	Svetlana Kot	Dendrobium Comet King 'Akatsuki'

UP-COMING EVENTS 2008

- February 2-3, Orchid Quest
- February 9-10, 29th Annual Show, Southern Ontario Orchid Society, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- February 16-18, 2008 Annual Orchid Show, Batavia Orchid Society, NEW LOCATION, Dupage County Fair-ground, 2015 W. Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL
- February 28-March 2, San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Expo, "Orchids Gone Wild," Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA
- March 1-2, Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI
- March 15-16, Michigan Orchid Society Show, Michigan State Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Rd., Troy, MI
- March 28-30, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre, 1717 W. 12th Street, Davenport, IA
- 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



Photograph by Judith Rapacz
Phragmipedium Inca Embers
Andean Fire x longifolium

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 12th 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.

You know you are addicted to orchids when...

... you notice orchids in the background décor of television shows and wonder if they are real and if it is real what the name might be, and while wondering all this you miss the most important plot twist of the show and really don't care because now you are wondering which of your plants might be in spike.

ORCHID QUEST SPEAKER SCHEDULE Saturday, February 2

- 11:30 AM **Vanilla Orchid Identification: A Test Case for Plant DNA Barcoding** –Ken Cameron, Director Wisconsin State Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 1:00 PM **Turning Your Sick Orchids into Healthy Flowering Plants** - Hermann Pigors, Oak Hill Gardens, Dundee, IL
- 2:30 PM **The True Encyclias** – Erich Michel, Hoosier Orchids, Indianapolis, IN

Sunday, February 3

- 11:30 AM **The Culture of Miniature Orchids** –Marguerite Webb, J&L Orchids, Easton, CN
- 1:00 PM **How Not to Grow Phalaenopsis** –Russ Vernon, New Vision Orchids, Yorktown, IN
- 2:30 PM **Open Forum on Orchid Growing** —Members of Orchid Growers' Guild Responding to E-Mails and Audience Questions about Orchid Growing

Photograph by Judith Rapacz



Sophrocattleya Precious Jewel 'Gold Country'; below Paphiopedilum Mystic Isle

Photograph by Rich Narf



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.