

October 2008 *The Orchid Grower*

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



NEXT MEETING is October 19th: Dr. Ken Cameron will speak on "Vanilla Orchid Identification: A Test Case for Plant DNA Barcoding"

Ken left the New York Botanical Garden this year to join the Department of Botany at UW-Madison. He is an Associate Professor and Director of the Wisconsin State Herbarium. Ken and his students have been researching the evolution and classification of various orchid groups since the mid-1990s when DNA sequencing technology promised to revolutionize orchid systematics. As a Ph.D. student at the Univ of NC-Chapel Hill and later at Kew Gardens in London he studied under the well known orchidologist Dr. Mark Chase. During that time, Ken published the first DNA based study of relationships within the orchid family, and eventually focused his research on Vanilla and its relatives (subfamily Vanilloideae), which is his specialty. He is currently working on a new book on the Natural History of Vanilla Orchids. His interest in orchids started at an early age when he became fascinated by the pink lady's slippers that grew around his family's cabin in northern Michigan. He is now sharing that passion for orchids with a new generation of students at UW.



Dr. Ken Cameron



Photograph by Ken Cameron

Vanilla planifolia

Vanilla planifolia, the "ice cream orchid" is the only species of more than 25,000 in the orchid family that is of significant agricultural value. Despite this fact, very little is known about its basic biology. Furthermore, there are other species of *Vanilla* that are cultivated for their aromatic fruits, but the consumer often

Meeting Dates

- October 19 - Atrium
- December 14 - Meeting Room
- January 18, 2009— Meeting Room
- February 15 -Meeting Room
- March 15—Meeting Room
- April 19—Atrium
- May 17—Meeting Room
- June TBA
- September 27—Meeting Room
- October 18—Meeting Room
- December 20—Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise noted

Up-coming Events

- October 25-26, Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Rockford, IL
- **2009**
- January 31—February 1, 2009 Orchid Quest
- February 21-22, Batavia Orchid Show
- March 14-25, NWOS
- March 27-29, 2009, Spring MAOC, Columbus OH
- April 11, 2009 –Spring Orchid Sale

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AOS Photography	2
Congratuatiions	6
Next Meeting Program	1
OGG September Ribbon Winners	6
Our Man (and Woman) in Thailand	4
Programming for 2008-2009	5
Report from MAOC	7
Up-Coming Events	5
WOS Show Results	8

Officers and Committees

President:

Rich Narf (2010)
znarfi@powercom.net

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2009)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Annette Minter (2009)
Studio725@charter.net

Treasurer:

Irene Mackie (2010)
Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com

Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

Steve Thimling (2010)
orchidbird@charter.net

Audrey Lucier (2009)
audl@aol.com

Away Shows:

Judith Rapacz
jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu

Hospitality:

David Kahlway
riceguy1@juno.com

Librarian:

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

Membership:

Board of Directors

Newsletter:

Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest:

Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net
Judith Rapacz
jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu

Programs:

Judy Stevenson

Ribbon Judging:

Lorraine Snyder
Jody Thistle

Web Master:

Gary Brendemuehl
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Liaisons:

Alliant: Elaine Malter (2009)
AOS: Jill Hynum (2009)
MAOC: Wayne King, Judith Rapacz
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2009)

(Continued from page 1)

has little knowledge of what they are buying when they purchase products containing vanilla flavor or fragrance. New research on the origins, identity, and natural history of Vanilla and related orchids has advanced our understanding of these enigmatic plants. DNA evidence, in particular, has been important in shedding new light on these topics. An overview of Vanilla, the orchid, and the mysteries that are tangled up in the vines will be presented.

WEBER SPOKE ABOUT AOS PHOTOGRAPHY AT JUNE PICNIC

Scott Weber gave an informative talk at the picnic hosted by Jeff and Denise Baylis, on the pros and cons of digital and slide film photography, the mechanics of setting up, the required documentation, of AOS awarded plants. His objective was to pass along his knowledge and experience to others. Scott had two issues of AOS magazine *Orchids* that contained his images of FCC (First Class Certificate) AOS awarded plants from our shows as examples of his photographic abilities. The following are some of the highlights of his discussion:

Equipment: Since the AOS is not requiring all photos be film slides and is now accepting digital images, Scott has invested in a through the lens digital camera. Scott's camera of choice is an Olympus 10 mega pixel SLR camera with flash. A macro lens is essential for images of species miniatures, some only millimeters across. Another piece of essential equipment is a back drop. Scott chooses a dark blue or black (unwrinkled) fabric draped over a dowel rod resting between two guitar stands. He recommends avoiding white as it displays shadows although this can be minimized by increasing distance. Backdrops are important to set off the flower image and minimized background clutter. Large plants and whole exhibit images are the most challenging to capture due to the lack of control over lighting, camera angles and backgrounds.

A tripod is essential for film photography but not as important for digital. Some digital cameras have a built-in image stabilizer that helps take the shake out of images. The tripod is useful for picture



One of the digital photographs Scott took at OQ 2008, **Award of Merit:** Phal Mary B 'Paulina' (Phal Taisuco Lotus x Taisuco Mercy) , "Orchids Limited"

(Continued from page 2)

composition and allows the photographer to use a remote flash. A removable flash with an extension cord is important as it allows for the adjustment of the lighting angle to reduce shadows and to highlight the best features of the plant.

The film vs. digital debate: Film images are generally a better quality, but digital is the way of the future. The production of film and the difficulty and expense of film processing are forcing digital images for the AOS awarded plants. The cost was sometimes between \$200 and \$300 per show just for film processing. Film and digital cameras react differently to different light wavelengths. Film (depending on the type of slide film) has a tendency to have trouble representing the true blue tones, while digital is better but has troubles with others. Cloudy light and avoidance of direct sunlight work best for both digital and film realistic blue color. Digital has the advantage of viewing the image immediately (even though it is a small image.) AOS demands that the selected film slide be bracketed with different f-stop settings as a reassurance of getting an image that most accurately reflects reality. Film is much more expensive for the Guild since three sets of images for each awarded plant had to be sent to each judge, requiring as many as 36 copies of each image. With digital the photographer selects the best image.

Each image requires the corresponding AOS award information created by the judges. Rather than tediously copying it, Scott has found it much easier to record it by taking a digital image of the paperwork.



Scott Weber speaking to OGG members

Some techniques: Scott focuses on the center of the flower or just slightly in front of the center. He tries to use an f-stop of 16 or 22 for the best depth of field, meaning more of the flower will be in focus. With increased magnification the depth of field is decreased making it more challenging to capture miniature orchid plants and flowers.

Sometimes the best flower color saturation results from stopping down (slightly underexposing images). The positioning of the flash is important to give the best illumination without shadows and without emphasizing distractions of the support stakes or background.

The digital image size should be the maximum the camera takes in a jpeg format with an image size around 3 MB. The RAW data image information is large and not consistent between camera manufacturers thus is not handled by the AOS.

An advantage of taking the AOS photographs is the opportunity to see the judging process up-close. You can hear them discussing micrometers, looking up photographs on their computer data bases and generally debating seemingly arcane points. However the photography process is somewhat stressful and takes time, it could take several hours. Plus equipment is prone to failure. Judges can be picky directing how and what to photograph. Advantages of taking the AOS images are free food and a chance to learn about AOS judging!

—— Sue Reed

From Our Man (and Woman) in Thailand

Bill Beamish is a Professor of Zoology, originally from the University of Guelph in Canada but since retiring in 2000 has been at Burapha University in Bangsaen, Thailand. His wife Chuntee is his field assistant while maintaining two rubber and fruit tree farms. They live and work in Thailand and both enjoy orchids. This is the first in a series of articles about their experiences with orchids in Thailand.



Dendrobium dixanthum

Over the past five or six years, we have conducted ecological research on river fishes in the beautiful and mountainous forests that surround the large Kaem Laem reservoir in the western portion of the province of Kanchanaburi, about 150 km west of the famous “Bridge on the River Kwai.” The area, known as Thong Pha Phum, is relatively undisturbed, although by no means pristine and borders neighboring Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. This is also great orchid country. Much of our work is conducted far from any semblance of a road and in many cases in areas accessible only well into the dry season. As we slowly creep our way into these forests we are privileged to see stands of impressive tree ferns, ancient trees reaching well above the forest canopy, often hosting orchids near their summit and occasionally a wild elephant, barking deer or, more often, beautiful butterflies. In Thailand it is illegal to collect wild orchids, although demand and poverty provide little respect for the conservation of these fascinating plants. Also, even in remote areas, portions of forests are subject to anthropogenic activities, especially agriculture. This has been a major source of our wild orchids.



This *Dendrobium anosmum* was collected in Thong Pha Phum (above and below)

My wife, Chuntee, is our orchid “name giver”, based on her experiences growing up in the Thai country and the few books we have. She is a competent fish taxonomist and is comfortable with scientific names.

The photographs in this article are of wild orchids we collected from forests that were being converted to agriculture or from small mar-

kets along the roadside. *Dendrobium dixanthum*, is an example of one we saved from extinction. The one exception to our behavior is *Kingidium deliciosum* that we collected at a place we call station 12 located deep in the forests of this region and where there are also some exciting fish species. *Ascocentrum curvitolium* is a wild or-



Kingidium deliciosum



(Continued from page 4)

chid that we purchased from a small market at a border crossing to Myanmar, a place called Three Pagoda Pass in English and “Phra-chedi Sam Ong” in Thai. This little market is operated by citizens of Myanmar and they offer a wide selection of goods including exotic birds, plants, pearls, rubies, furniture and beer. Thailand apparently has an understanding with the merchants that they must return to Myanmar across a small bridge not far away every night by 6 pm but otherwise are free to sell.

— Bill Beamish

Ascocentrum curvitolium on the left and *Dendrobium crepidatum* on the right



Programs for OGG 2008 - 2009, 1 pm Orchid Judging, 1:30 pm Speaker

November 16 Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery	What is new at Orchids Gardens Centre & Nursery? - Chuck Acker
December 14 Meeting Room Olbrich	Growing Mounted Orchids -Liese Butler, Oakhill Gardens
January 18 Meeting Room Olbrich	Overview of Awards for AOS - Wayne King
February 15 Meeting Room Olbrich	Orchid Quest Debriefing —OGG Membership
March 15 Meeting Room Olbrich	Monogamous Orchids versus Promiscuous Grasses –How to Disperse Your Genes —Jeff Baylis
April 11 Olbrich Gardens	Spring Orchid Sale - OGG Members, 10 am- 2:30 pm
April 19 Atrium Olbrich	Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid and its Conservation —Ursula Petersen
May 17 Meeting Room Olbrich	TBA
June Picnic July Field Trip	TBA Field trip in Search of Eastern Fringed Orchid , place and time TBA

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 16-19, 2008, next meeting of the American Orchid Society, at Longwood Gardens, PA, with the conference hotel in Wilmington, DE, the Hotel Dupont
- October 25-26, Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL
- January 31—February 1, 2009 Orchid Quest
- February 21-22, Batavia Orchid Show
- March 14-15, 2009 - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show. “An Orchid Luau,” Neenah
- March 21-22, 2009, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- March 28-29, 2009, 34th Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Davenport, IA
- March 27-29, 2009, Spring MAOC, Columbus OH



OGG RIBBON JUDGING SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

First Place

Stanhopea wardii
 Lc Acker's Madison x Slc Golden Wax
 Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos'
Macradenia brassavolae
Paph spicerianum
 Paph malipoense x gardineri
 Vanda Pakchong Blue

Sandy Delamater
 Rich Narf
 Sandy Delamater
 Steven Thimling
 Steven Thimling
 Sandy Delamater
 Sandy Delamater

Second Place

Miltonidium 'Bartley Schwartz'
Brassavola cucullata
 Lc Love Knot 'Royston' HCC/AOS

Audrey Lucier
 Jeff Baylis
 Gary Brendemuehl

Third Place

Paph Supersuk 'Eureka' x Paph Raisin Pie 'Hsinying'
 Paph Magic Callos

Jeff Baylis
 Jeff Baylis



Ribbon Winners:

Clock-wise from upper left, *Paph spicerianum* and *Macradenia brassavolae* grown by Steve Thimling; Paph malipoense x gardineri and *Stanhopea wardii* grown by Sandy Delamater

You know you are addicted to orchids when ...
 ... your spouse asks for a divorce and all
 you say is, "the orchids stay with me."



CONGRATULATIONS TO CHUCK AND KAREN

Congratulations to Chuck and Karen for their recent marriage performed in Fiji. We wish you the best in the years to come. You make a good couple!

Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC), September 6-7, 2008

The fall MAOC was held at King's Island Resort and Convention Center, Mason, Ohio. Three Guild members (Judy Stevenson, Judith Rapacz, Wayne King), members of a Guild committee exploring the feasibility of Guild sponsorship of a 2010 MAOC, were in attendance. We met with Doug and Beth Martin, among others. The Martins were key players in the MAOC sponsored by the Kansas City Orchid Society. There seems to be no objection to a February MAOC which would enable the Guild to hold it in conjunction with our 2010 Orchid Quest. Much more work remains to be done before a proposal is submitted to the Board (and perhaps the membership) and the MAOC itself.

Judith attended a meeting of the Executive Committee Friday evening and, along with Judy, attended the Saturday night Banquet. All attended the Sunday morning Affiliated Societies meeting and business meeting.

Friday evening was the show preview in which registrants got an advanced look at the displays (prior to judging) and an early crack at the sales tables. Judging was conducted Saturday morning. There was one outstanding display and about the same number of displays as at Orchid Quest. There will be a forthcoming report on awards granted. [and photographs]

Three speakers were scheduled Saturday afternoon, but due to time limitations, only two gave presentations. The third speaker was rescheduled to speak at the Banquet. The speakers were outstanding. Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids in California covered "New Hybrids with *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes*." I particularly appreciated the detailed culture information he presented. Fred has an intergeneric cross named after him: *Fredclarkeara*. Dr. Henry Oakley, Past Chairman of the Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Committee and President of the Orchid Society of Great Britain was the other afternoon speaker. His topic was on "Orchid Hunting in the Headwaters of the Amazon, Central Cordillera of Peru." He showed some spectacular scenic shots of the Cordillera and flora—especially orchids. He interacted with his audience, maintaining interest with light-hearted and, sometimes humorous, comments and questions.

The Saturday night auction included a silent auction in addition to the regular auction.

At the Affiliated Societies Breakfast, there was a sharing of information on the subject of speakers. It was recommended that, initially, the specifics of lecture topic, equipment required, and compensation, be discussed and agreed upon with the speaker and communicated by E-mail. To finalize the arrangements, a letter should convey the understanding by indicating the date of the presentation, time, place, subject, equipment to be provided, and compensation agreed upon. If possible, meet the speaker for lunch or dinner, help with setup and take down. It was recommended that there be a budget for programs. It was also advisable to schedule programs as far ahead as a year. Also, the program chair needs to have a clear understanding of his/her responsibilities.

Additional information will be available on the MAOC website. The next meeting of the MAOC will be March 27-29, 2009 in Columbus, Ohio.

Wayne King, MAOC Liaison

WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW RESULTS, SEPTEMBER 2008

Set-up and take-down by Judith Rapacz and Sandy Delamater

Display: First Place

First Place:	Jeff Baylis Sandy Delamater Wayne King Wayne King Chuck Acker Chuck Acker	<i>Cochleanthes amazonica</i> Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' - <u>BEST OF CLASS</u> Ctna Rosy Jewel Tolumnia Phyllis Envy 'Ruby Queen' Dendrochilum <i>magnum</i> - <u>BEST OF CLASS</u> Paphiopedilum Alma Gavaert x <i>fairieanum album</i> - <u>BEST OF CLASS</u>
---------------------	--	---

Second Place:	Sandy Delamater Judy Williamson Wayne King Chuck Acker	Vanda Pakchong Phal. Earth Star (Phal. Abed-Nego 'Pine Ridge #1') Phal Yu Pin Lady Oncidium Catatante 'Pacific Sun Spot'
----------------------	---	---

Third Place:	Jeff Baylis Sandy Delamater Wayne King Chuck Acker	Paph Supersuk 'Eureka' x Paph Raisin Pie 'Hsinying' Onc. Butterfly <i>papilio</i> x <i>sanderae</i> Cattleya Lousise Georgian Paphiopedilum Larry Booth 'Chuck's Choice' HCC/ AOS
---------------------	---	---



Sandy Delamater submitted these photographs from the Wisconsin Orchid Society Show. Upper left is the OGG exhibit (notice all the purple ribbons!), upper right is an award-winning Phalaenopsis and the bottom right is an award-winning Laeleocattleya