

February  
2009

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



## NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 15

### Orchid Quest Debriefing

Many, many volunteer hours went into the 23<sup>rd</sup> Orchid Quest. THANK YOU, THANK YOU. We could not do this miraculous feat without working together. We all offered different skills but the end result is a good finished product. Each year we make some changes and try to improve. The formation of committees to be in charge of a particular area (such as the Raffle) was a good suggestion from last year. You won't want to miss this **celebration of our success** and at the same time strategize OQ 2010. Wait until you hear how the *Silent Auction* made out!

--- Judy Stevenson

### Meeting Dates

February 15 -Meeting Room  
 March 15—Meeting Room  
 April 19—Atrium  
 May 17—Meeting Room  
 June TBA  
 July—Field Trip in Search of Eastern Fringed Orchid – TBA  
 September 27—Meeting Room  
 October 18—Meeting Room  
 December 20—Meeting Room

**Meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise noted**

### Up-coming Events 2009

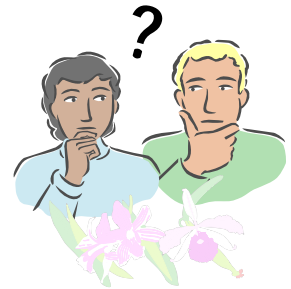
- February 21-22, Batavia Orchid Show
- March 14-15, NWOS
- March 27-29, Spring MAOC, Columbus OH
- April 11, Spring Orchid Sale

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 Gary ([brendemuehl@verizon.net](mailto:brendemuehl@verizon.net)) and Denise ([jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net))

## THE JUDGING PROCESS

Wayne King

Much has changed since this organization first started. Wayne was the first full term OGG president and when he took office January 1, the first show was the end of the month. There was virtually no money and this first show was at West Towne Mall. He was worried that the show would fall flat but everyone pulled together. There were no kiosks at the mall in those days and OGG rented tables. It was a good sized show but not as compact as we have now.



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State of technology has changed since those early days. The first newsletter was done on a manual typewriter. The first computer was a Commodore. When OGG lost our place at West Towne, far-thinking members suggested the Alliant Center. We paid no fee, instead split the gate which enabled us to get our feet on ground. After

hearing horror stories from other organizations, today we are one of the first in our area to successfully computerize the show registration process and generate entry tags. Some years we had more than 790 orchids registered but last year this number was down because of the weather. This year's Orchid Quest will be the first to use the new categories from the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC). The question today is "Can

## Officers and Committees

### President:

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### Vice President:

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### Membership:

Board of Directors

### Newsletter:

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### Orchid Quest:

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### Programs:

Judy Stevenson

### Ribbon Judging:

Lorraine Snyder  
Jody Thistle

### Web Master:

Gary Brendemuehl  
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### Liaisons:

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

we build enough expertise among members so that they can step up and take over from those doing it now.”

Wayne explained that there are different kinds of orchid judging. The first and simplest is the informal judging done at the local level. Here everyone can judge, categories are decided locally. Judges can even group plants any way they want. Wayne suggested that everyone should have the “wow” experience where you don't have to justify why one likes the plant. You learn what to look for but don't have to worry about structure.

Second level is show judging. There are AOS judging centers throughout the US. Initially St. Louis was the center in the Midwest. Later a regional judging center was established in Chicago at the botanical gardens where they meet once a month and welcome visitors. Judges pay their own expenses and they are expected to judge a certain number of shows every year. Show hosts send out invitations to potential judges. There is mutual advantage, the AOS judges judge for us and in return they obtain credit for it. Judging teams at shows do not have to be all AOS judges and this is NOT AOS judging but ribbon judging. Since the judges have to be here anyway for AOS judging, we take advantage of them to conduct our ribbon judging.

MAOC is one of several orchid congresses in the United States. Each congress sets its own criteria for ribbon judging. They decide the categories. There is some fluidity, individual show hosts may add categories or subdivide categories. Regionally, categories can be very different. Each show is required to send MAOC the count of the number of plants in each category. This information is used to determine future categories by the frequency of entries in classes.

AOS judging is judging sanctioned by AOS. AOS show trophy is awarded by AOS judges. Special Awards are identified. When all the ribbon judging is completed, the AOS judges will spread out and nominate particular plants for AOS judging. These plants are taken to a segregated room. Out of these plants only a very few actually receive AOS Awards. Depending on the type of plant (i.e., Cattleya, Paph, etc.), plants are awarded points on a scale. The first is flower form, general form (how well presented), form of sepals and petals, then the labellum, and the little used category of caudes. Different types of orchids are scored differently. Flower color is scored (general color, sepals and petals together, and labellum). Other characteristics that are scored include size of flower, substance and texture of the flower; habit and arrangement of the flowers; and lastly the number of stems and flowers.

Wayne is honored to have had several of his plants pulled for AOS judging.

## JANUARY OGG RIBBON JUDGING

### First Place

Brassocattleya Maikai 'Mayumi'  
*Paphiopedilum fairrieanum alba* (sp)

Sandy Delamater  
Sandy Delamater

### Second Place

*Paphiopedilum villosum* (sp)  
*Paphiopedilum Schrat (venustum* var *alba*  
x *javanicum* var *alba*)  
*Paphiopedilum Greensleeves* x *Acker's Peak*  
*Cattleya intermedia* 'Breckenridge Snow' x *Bc Diadem*

Sandy Delamater  
Gary Brendemuehl

Jeff Baylis  
Sandy Delamater

### Third Place

*Paph fairrieanum* (sp)

Sandy Delamater

## THE WARDIAN CASE

With the almost universal availability of exotic plants that we have today, sometimes it is difficult to comprehend what it was like two hundred years ago. Slow transportation methods, severe air pollution and general lack of central heating made it difficult to maintain environments suitable to maintain plants in the home (unless you were fabulously wealthy) let alone acquire them in the first place. All this changed with a deceptively simple invention that would allow for the long distant transportation of delicate plants: the Wardian Case, or as we know it today, the orchidarium or simply the terrarium.

Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward was a physician with a passion for botany. The ferns in his garden were being poisoned by London's air which was severely polluted by coal burning. In 1829 Ward buried a sphinx moth chrysalis in some soil in a closed glass bottle. While waiting to observe the insect's metamorphosis, he noticed that a tiny fern and a few blades of grass had germinated and continued to grow without any additional water. He had a closely-fitted glazed wooden case constructed and found that ferns grown in it thrived. Growing plants under glass was not new but Ward's observation of the tightly sealed environment, kept independent from surrounding atmospheric conditions, was innovative.

Botanists and commercial nurserymen had been prospecting around the globe in search of interesting new plants since the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. However, these plants had to travel as seeds or corms, or as dry rhizome and roots which has obvious drawbacks. But with the new Wardian cases, plants could be set out on deck in the sun and the condensed moisture within



Several examples of Wardian Cases popular during the Victorian era

the case would keep them watered but protected them from salt spray. The first test was made in 1833 when Ward shipped two cases filled with British ferns and grasses to Australia. On arrival months later these plants were still in good condition. The return trip hosted native Australian species that had never survived transportation in the before. These plants also arrived in good condition despite an eight-month voyage around the Horn. With the success of this experiment, Ward published a brief pamphlet "The growth of Plants without open exposure to the Air" describing his methods. His book 'On the Growth of Plants in Closely Glazed Cases' followed in 1842.

One of Ward's correspondents was William Jackson Hooker, later director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Hooker's son Joseph Dalton Hooker was one of the first plant explorers to use the new Wardian cases, when he shipped live plants back to England from New Zealand in 1841.

Wardian cases soon became features of stylish drawing rooms in Western Europe and the US. The fern craze and orchid craze that followed owed much of their impetus to these increasingly ornate new cases. But most importantly, the Wardian case allowed for a revolution in the mobility of commercially important plants. They provided a means to successfully smuggle tea plants out of China to begin the tea plantations in India. Seedlings of Brazilian Pará rubber trees were germinated in heated greenhouses at Kew and were shipped to Sri Lanka and Malaya to found their rubber plantations. The Chinese banana, *Musa cavendishi* was introduced to Fiji. No doubt many of our favorite orchids today were first shipped this way.

FROM BOLZ CONSERVATORY



Brassocattleya Maikai 'Mayumi'



Phalaenopsis (New Eagles x Zauberrot) x Phalaenopsis (Morgenrot x New Eagles)



*Myrmecophila ticipinis*



Renanthera Mem Marie Killian x R monachica

## CLASS OFFERINGS FROM OAK HILL GARDENS

Starting in February, Oak Hill Gardens will be offering classes on growing orchids here at the nursery. The classes will be held on Saturday mornings and will last from 45-75 minutes and will be taught by Liese or Greg, covering a wide range of orchid related subjects. The fee for the classes will be \$5.00, unless otherwise noted. A free orchid plant will be included for each registrant. Please phone (847-428-8500) or email ([oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com](mailto:oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com)) to register.

Saturday, February 7, 2009 10:00 am  
**Orchids 101 - General Care**

This class will cover the general care of orchids. We will go over the culture necessary for the most popular varieties, i.e. Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Oncidiums, etc. We will also cover the topics of where orchids originate and how they are reproduced. You will be given an orchid to take home and will leave with a general knowledge of how to raise your beautiful plant.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 10:00 am  
**Orchids: Beyond the Basics 1– Repotting**

This session will involve getting your hands dirty while learning how to repot your orchid. The technique and media are both specialized when it comes to this wonderful family of plants. You will get personalized help with the procedure and then be able to take home your repotted plant.

Saturday, April 11, 2009 10:00 am  
**Beyond the Basics 2 – Fertilizing & Pesticiding**

Proper fertilizing formulas, frequencies and concentrations will be covered in this session. Also, we will familiarize you with common orchid pests, and let you know what you can do to prevent them and/or keep them under control.

Saturday, May 9, 2009 10:00 am  
**Growing Mounted Orchids**

Mounted orchids add a new dimension to our orchid collections! This class will cover the basics of growing orchids on a mount (stick, wood plaque, cork, etc.). You will learn how to care for mounted orchids, as well as experience a "hands on" workshop where you will mount an orchid that you may then take home to grow.

## FREE PLANT TISSUE CULTURE WORKSHOP

A free plant tissue culture workshop is being offered to the local community to thank donors for their generosity to the Milton Dog Park and to the community as a whole. Last year, the first annual plant propagation benefit workshop for the Milton Dog Park was held. Due to the generosity of family and friends and dog lovers across the miles, we received over \$1000 in donations.

We would like to thank the many donors by giving something back to them: this year's plant propagation workshop will be FREE to anyone who has donated to the Milton Dog Park fund or to the community in general, including OGG members. We do have a limit of 20 spaces in class so contact Carol Stiff at 608-302-2750 [orkck@turbonet.com](mailto:orkck@turbonet.com) if you want to reserve a spot.

The workshop is being offered through a collaboration of Kitchen Culture Kits Inc. and its sister non-profit company, Kitchen Culture Education Technologies Inc. For more information see our web sites: [www.kitchenculturekit.com](http://www.kitchenculturekit.com) and [www.kitchencultureEducation.org](http://www.kitchencultureEducation.org) and [www.hometissueculture.org](http://www.hometissueculture.org)

The workshop will be held in Milton, Wisconsin at the Community House (across from the Milton House) from 9 am to 4 pm. Lunch will probably be provided. Carol Stiff, Ph.D.

**You know you are addicted to orchids when...**  
... you return the jewelry you received for your birthday and wait until spring to use the cash to buy more orchids.

## Group Discounts on OrchidWiz

*Orchid Wiz* is a software program that identifies and gives a name to all the named orchids in the world. It is updated as time goes by. OGG just bought it for OQ. All the AOS judges use it and have it on their own computers.

These are the current discounts on group orders:

5 or greater: 30% off or \$181.30 per license  
10 or greater: 40% off or \$155.40 per license  
20 or greater: 50% off or \$129.50 per license

The annual plan, in addition, is \$80 + \$5 per year for 4 quarterly updates. It is not discounted and is optional. Each licensee can purchase this separately, after trying out the software. Someone needs to collect money from all and mail in a single check or pay via PayPal.

Shipping costs will be reasonable. For example, \$15 for 5; \$25 for 10; \$35 for 20. So, add another \$3 per license for shipping.

Jill Hynum will inquire about interest at the next meeting.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- February 21-22, Batavia Orchid Show, Charlestown Mall, Charlestown, IL
- March 14-15, 2009 - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show. "An Orchid Luau," Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 East Wisconsin Ave., Neenah WI
- March 21-22, 2009, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- March 28-29, 2009, 34th Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Putnam Museum and IMAX Theatre, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA
- March 27-29, 2009, Spring MAOC, Columbus OH
- June 13 –16, NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE, INC. 2009 Annual Conference, UW– Green Bay
- September 5-7, Fall MAOC, hosted jointly by the Greater Cincinnati and Miami Valley Orchid Societies, Mason, OH
- October 10-11, 2009 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL