

January 2009 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



NEXT MEETING JANUARY 18TH

Just in time for Orchid Quest, Wayne King will cover the judging process at a show and the criteria used and some guidelines for AOS judging. Wayne will also be speaking Friday January 23rd on the Larry Miehler radio show (WPR 90.7 FM) 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. about Orchid Quest. There will also be an opportunity for call-in questions.



ORCHID QUEST #23 IS ALMOST HERE **By Judy Stevenson**

Meeting Dates

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 2009

- January 31—February 1, 2009 Orchid Quest
- February 21-22, Batavia Orchid Show
- March 14-25, NWOS
- March 27-29, Spring MAOC, Columbus OH



About this time of year, I can feel my heart start to beat a little bit faster and the adrenalin start to flow through my veins. The end result is that I have trouble falling asleep at night or I wake early in the morning with the show on my mind.

I feel very fortunate to have Judith Rapacz as a co-show chair. In between ministering to her husband Jan (who had the misfortune to fall out of a 25 ft evergreen tree sustaining three vertebral fractures and a compression fracture last October) she has been working with me to make plans for this 23rd Orchid Quest. At this point we have 18 vendors and 11

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societies who have confirmed that they will be coming. We have made good progress setting up various committees to focus on their area of interest. Spreading out the various responsibilities will prevent burn-out and guild members will feel a greater sense of ownership for this fantastic show. Judith and I appreciate those of you who volunteering to fill the numer-

ous job opportunities over a three day period. We know that you are all busy, but you have agreed to carve out time to support OGG.

One good fortune that we have is confirmation that the Professional Art Quilt Alliance quilt art exhibit that is currently touring the United States,

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Officers and Committees

President:

Rich Narf (2010)
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Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2009)
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Secretary:

Annette Minter (2009)
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Treasurer:

Irene Mackie (2010)
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Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)
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Steve Thimling (2010)
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Audrey Lucier (2009)
audl@aol.com

Away Shows:

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Hospitality:

David Kahlway
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Librarian:

Liz Wood (2008)
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Membership:

Board of Directors

Newsletter:

Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest:

Judy Stevenson
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Judith Rapacz
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Programs:

Judy Stevenson

Ribbon Judging:

Lorraine Snyder
Jody Thistle

Web Master:

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gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Liaisons:

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

Orchid Quest Opportunities

OGG members are welcome to put together an exhibit at Orchid Quest. Please notify Judith Rapacz and Judy Stevenson if you will be doing this for OQ 2009. They need to have the name of your exhibit **by the second week in January** so that it can go on our website and into the program.

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has agreed to present their exhibit, "Orchids, Orchids, Orchids". In 2007, this group was challenged to design quilts featuring orchids for display at the 2007 Miami International Show. PAQA rose to the challenge and hung forty-five quilts. The group was invited to hang a brand new exhibit for the 19th World Orchid Conference and Show in 2008. **At OQ 2009, this exhibit will showcase contemporary**

art quilts hung at these two international orchid shows.

They will hang eighteen pieces of art, all which are unique in design and feature various embellishment, fabric and thread techniques.

Another addition to the show this year is the addition of student artwork (featuring orchids) and floral arrangements submitted by area florists. The world of orchids will be enhanced for all of us this year. Then there is the Raffle Table. I have had a sneak preview of some of the offerings which include framed orchid prints over 100 years old.

My last two requests are that you personally invite **everyone that you know** to OQ and that you keep snow showers, fog and ice out of the weather forecast. Good Luck.

Become a "Friend of OGG" for Orchid Quest 2009

We are trying something new at this year's Orchid Quest. Members who give \$50 to OGG to support Orchid Quest will be mentioned in the program and will also receive a voucher toward a tax deduction (federal and state) because OGG is a 501(c)(3) organization. Send your gift to the Treasurer Irene Mackie as soon as possible. Thank you.

MOUNTING ORCHIDS

Liese Butler from Oak Hill Gardens presented the December talk. She brought a selection of orchids for sale as well as examples of the variety of ways to mount them.

Mounting, watering and general care of miniature orchids.

Liese explained that humidity level is very important with mounted orchids. In the home this can be accomplished by misting and watering more frequently, keeping the plant in a terrarium, or placing a cover over the plant. The most important time to watch humidity is

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during the winter when the heat kicks in and dries out the air. By contrast, in the winter the greenhouse air stays cooler and damper so it is necessary to cut back on the frequency of watering. In general homes are much drier in the winter which effects both potted and mounted plants. The rule is to water stick-mounted plants twice as often as potted plants. Other ways to increase humidity are humidity trays, table fountains, grouping plants together, even with non-orchids. Watering needs may also be reduced by placing the stick mounted orchid in a clay pot. Feel the moss (if any) mounted with the orchid, and if crunchy and dry, water them. The exception is Phaleanopsis which like to be kept moist.

Oak Hill Gardens collects the rainwater that falls on the greenhouse roofs in a cistern and uses it exclusively to water their plants.

Mount-type

Orchids may be mounted on many different media including cork, cedar shingles, old grape vines, tree fern, driftwood, rocks, etc. Cork which never rots or decays and Oak Hill has some stock pieces on the same cork for 35 years. Cedar also does not decay and its coarse wood grain holds moisture well.



Photograph by Rich Narf

A mounted miniature orchid inside a glass vase

Oak Hill has carried mounted orchids “forever.” Recently they have been mounting more and more orchids. Almost all types can be mounted except terrestrial but miniatures are the most appropriate. Any orchid with a big thick leaf or with a pseudobulb is a good choice for the beginner. Remember that whether it is mounted or in a basket, the plant will dry out faster because the air circulates from all directions. The same light requirements apply as if it were grown in a pot. Remember the general rule that thick leaves need more light and softer leaves need shadier conditions, so an east window is good. Tree fern holds more moisture than wood and water tends to run off cork, however some things that like to grow dry don't want to be mounted on tree fern. Misting just provides moisture and humidity around the plant so the whole plant should be dipped in a bucket until it is no longer “crunchy dry.”

Fertilizing is generally the same as for potted orchids. Oak Hill fertilizes everything the same. Less mounting material holds less fertilizer so fertilize more frequently. Liese uses the color of the leaf to determine the level of fertilizer needed.

She cuts back in the winter and increases it in the spring. Liese admitted to having killed many ghost orchids before she

realized that they need darker and drier conditions: they like lots of humidity but don't like to be wet.

Mounting a potted orchid

Liese demonstrated how to mount a potted orchid. (Be sure that the plant has been soaked first.) She dumped the orchid out of the pot and removed the potting material from around the roots. She then wrapped the roots with moss or coconut fiber. (Coconut fiber doesn't hold as much water, your choice should be determined by the amount of humidity needed.) The moss should be around the roots and below the crown of the plant or the center of the plant will rot.

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She leaves the air roots hanging out as they would in nature. She then placed it on the mount and wrapped it with monofilament fishing line until secure. (She likes 8 pound test fishing line, ten is good for larger orchids and eight pound is great for the miniatures.) Wrap it tight enough to hold it on the mount but not so tight that it cannot soak up moisture. Mount plants with rhizomes so that the newest growth is next to the mount. Wrap moss around the roots. It is okay to leave air roots out.

An orchid should be remounted about every two to four years, and softer-leaf orchids need to be remounted more frequently. If a plant out-grows its mount or its leaves look sad, something needs to be done. If it is growing beyond the mount but looks healthy, add more moss and tie all of it to a larger mount. It can also be placed in a basket after wrapping it with moss. If the plant has long leaves it can be put in a basket where the leaves can grow down.

Spring and early summer are the best times to remount. March, April, May, June or the end of August or early fall are best. At Oak Hill they prefer spring because the plant has all season to root and grow. To remount, cut the strings holding it in place and peel the roots off the mount. Keep the plant drier after repotting or remounting until you see root growth.



Photograph by Denise Baylis

Vanilla orchid mounted inside a snail shell

Mounted orchids can be hung on the sides of pots, on an earring tree, an old screen door, set in little clay pots or decorative pots. Liese showed examples of mounted miniature orchids inside a glass vase and another in a snail shell!



OGG EXHIBIT at Orchid Quest

The OGG exhibit for Orchid Quest 2009 will have a outside orchid garden theme. If you have items that might be useful in addition to your nicely grown and blooming orchids, please contact Susan Reed. Props for the display would need to be transported to and from the show by the donor unless other arrangements have been made. Props must not detract from the orchids but add as fillers and small interest items. They should be of dark color- black, brown, dark green. Our

major donated item might be a green-black metal feature. So if you have something that you think would work in an orchid garden theme in our 100 sq ft exhibit please send Susan Reed a photo if possible. We also could use some filler green plants, not highly variegated so again plants that blend well with orchids and don't detract from orchids. The Guild does have some squares of linoleum that resemble a tan brick, but if you have other floor covering for an outdoor garden or a back drop for an outdoor theme, please contact Sue!

The best contribution to the exhibit is your nicely blooming orchid plants, so please be generous with your orchid plants for the exhibit!

Thank you!

Sue Reed

OGG RIBBON JUDGING DECEMBER 2008

Photographs by Rich Narf

First Place

Steve Thimling	<i>Tuberolabium quisumbingii</i>
Sandy Delamater	Ascocenda Blue Tahomdin
Jody Thistle	Lockhartia
Jody Thistle	<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>
Meg McLaughlin	Dendrobium Phalaenopsis
Meg McLaughlin	Oncidium Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'
Meg McLaughlin	Masdevallia guttata 'Spots' x self
Steve Thimling	Phrag Eric Young
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph fairieanum</i> species
Wayne King	Paph Angel Hair 'AWOC' x Paph philippinense 'AWOC'
Audrey Lucier	Paph Hsinying Agogo (armeniicum 'Nugget' x Hsinying Concon 'Ching Hua')
Wayne King	Ascocenda Peggy Foo 'Red Dragon' x Vanda Gordon Dillon 'Lea'
Meg McLaughlin	Lc Angel Hair 'Nora'

Second Place

Jeff Baylis	<i>Cochlanthes amazonica</i>
Meg McLaughlin	D bigibbum x D music
Meg McLaughlin	Trichocentrum Memoria Sarai Ribicoff 'H' x Onc. lanceatum
Sandy Delamater	Onc Butterfly (papilio x sanderae)
Steve Thimling	Colm Wildcat 'L'
Annette Minter	Paph Chuck's Surprise (Acker's Pinnacle and Duncan York)
Sandy Delamater	Paph White King x Saint Ouens Bay
Sandy Delamater	Paph (Greensleeves x Acker's Peak) x Acker's Peak
Jeff Baylis	<i>Paph wardii</i> x sib
Steve Thimling	Paph Simaril 'White Pepper' x Paph lawrenceanum 'Tradition'

Third Place

David Kahlwey	Wilsonara Red Pacific
Steve Thimling	Bc Binosa 'Wabash Valley'



Photographs by Rich Narf

Congratulations to the 2008 OGG AWARD WINNERS

Class "O"

Annette Minter

Class 1

Richard Narf

Class 2

Sandy Delamater

Class 3

Sue Reed

Milo Gilbertson Award

Sandy Delamater

Exhibitor of the Year Award

Judith Rapacz



Trichocentrum Memoria Sarai Ribicoff 'H' x Onc. Lanceatum grown by Meg McLaughlin



Dendrobium nobile grown by Jodie Thistle



Miniature Dendrobium Phalaenopsis grown by Meg McLaughlin



Bc Binoso 'Wabash Valley' grown by Steve Thimling

JUDGING – the Process of Recognizing Superior Quality

The President of the America Orchid Society (AOS) is Carlos Fighetti. He writes a short 'Communication' every month in the Journal *ORCHIDS* about various issues affecting the Society. In the December 2007 issue he said: "the best service that AOS provides its members and orchid growers in general is JUDGING – which is to recognize superior quality.

A Judging Committee was formed in 1948, and the first *Handbook of Judging and Exhibition* was issued. Judging started at the New York Horticultural Society with a handful of judges and today 60 years later there are 24 judging centers, over 600 accredited judges and 150 student judges. From the first plant awarded in 1932 (to Mrs. W.K. du Pont) there are more than 66,000 awards in the AOS system today.

For plants to be awarded they have to be properly labeled, so that the judges can evaluate the plant and properly research their parents.

What does it take to become a judge? The first requirement is dedication. They must travel to judging centers and to shows at their own expense. Secondly, the individual must have good knowledge of orchids and must have grown their own for sometime. Thirdly, judges need to be trained for 6-10 years, and finally they need to be aware of newly described species, name changes and hybrid trends. An orchid chosen for an AOS award may also influence the future trend of orchid breeding.

So the President suggests that "if you meet judges, go to them and shake their hands, pat them on their back or hug them and give them a big 'thank you' for their effort that they put into making judging possible". Well, we will have an opportunity to show our appreciation at the upcoming Orchid Quest.

Our show also offers a good occasion to watch judges when they pull plants, which usually receive first place ribbon awards and "Best of Class" and then evaluate them for AOS awards. So participate in clerking – it is fun and a learning experience.

Judith Rapacz

June 13-June 16

NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE,
INC. 2009 Annual Conference

It will be held at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

This will be the 8th annual Native Orchid Conference held in coordination with the Coffin Center for Biodiversity. There will be field trips that provide an opportunity to visit some unique habitats in Wisconsin and Michigan. For example a visit to a northern fen near Carney, MI which will be dedicated as Michigan's newest state natural area in the Spring of 2009. It is home to as many as 25 species of native orchids, many of which should be in bloom during the conference.

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nativeorchidconference/>





“Art in Bloom: a tribute to art and flowers”

Four days only April 10-13

April 12, 2009, 10–11 am

Workshop: Creating Plant Communities for Sustainable, Low Maintenance Landscapes

Northwestern Mutual Room | \$15/\$10 Members
A prominent speaker and writer on ecological landscaping and native plants, Roy Diblik grows 400,000 plants of 360 different species each year at Northwind Perennial Farm in Burlington, WI. He will discuss the selection, establishment, and care of perennials.

Space is limited. Reservations required; call 414-224-3803.

Saturday, 10:30 am **Book Salon discussing *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean**

Quadracci Suite | Free with general admission
 Reservations required at museumstore@mam.org or 414-224-3826.



Paph Hsinying Agogo (arменијасум 'Nugget' x Hsinying Concon 'Ching Hua') grown by Audrey Lucier



**IRENE IS STILL
 READY TO COLLECT
 YOUR DUES!**



29th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum

Saturday, **February 14**, 2009, National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. (Pre-registration required!) 8 vendors, lectures, plant exhibition, ribbon, trophy and AOS judging, food! Anticipated speakers: Terry Root, The Orchid Zone, California; Alfredo Manrique, Peru; Dr. John Salventi, Parkside Orchids, Pennsylvania. Registration information will be posted on the NCOS web site in early December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 31–February 1, 2009 Orchid Quest
- January 24 – 25 2009. Minnesota Orchid Society, Winter Carnival Show, Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN 55103
- 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
- October 10-11, 2009 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL