

Summer 2009 The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



NEXT MEETING JUNE 7TH IS THE PICNIC!

The annual picnic will be at Jan and Judith Rapacz's home in Madison. [See address and map on last page.] They will provide brats, buns, kraut and utensils. Please bring a dish to share (hot dish, veggies, salad, fruit or dessert) and a folding chair. RSVP by Saturday 5 pm (274-3053, or email jorapacz@hotmail.com)

SILENT AUCTION – Jan and Judith are down-sizing their orchid collection and using this opportunity as a fund raiser for 2011 MAOC Speaker's Fund with a silent auction. They have plants, trays, potting material and more. If you have surplus plants or other orchid related items and are willing to donate them for this purpose please bring them.

12:00 noon - **RE-POTTING ORCHIDS** – you may bring a plant that you are afraid to re-pot. OGG experts will be at hand to advise. Potting material is available for \$ 2.00

1:00 pm - Orchid Judging

1:30 pm - Picnic

2:30 pm - Finalizing auction and other business: May meant elections. Open positions were vice-president, treasurer, secretary and one board position. Jill Hynum agreed to continue to serve as VP. Audrey Lucier will be the treasurer and Irene Mackie moved from secretary to the Board. OGG is still looking for nominations for secretary. If you are interested or have suggestions, contact Rich Narf. Hospitality is again open and if you are interested let Rich know. We are also looking for an Away Show Chair. Judith Rapacz has a list of responsibilities so if you are interested contact her.

Meeting Dates

- June 7th - Annual Picnic at Rapacz'
- July 12th—Field Trip
- September 27— Meeting Room
- October 18—Meeting Room
- December 20—Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Up-coming Events 2009

- June 13-16, Natuve Orchid Congress, Green Bay WI
- July 26, 2009, Speaker's Day, Johnston IA
- October 10-11, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe IL

Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Trip – July 12, 2009 at 10 AM

Gary and Penny Shackelford have graciously invited OGG to their property 380 acre property in Rock County, called "Fair Meadows", to view the native orchid. You might recall that they were present at our March meeting when Ursula Peterson spoke to us and said that they have one of the highest concentrations of the Eastern



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Officers and Committees

President:

Rich Narf (2010)
znarfi@powercom.net

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2011)
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Secretary:

Open

Treasurer:

Audrey Lucier
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Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)
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Steve Thimling (2010)
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Irene Mackie (2012)
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Away Shows:

Open

Hospitality:

TBA

Librarian:

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Membership:

Board of Directors

Newsletter:

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Orchid Quest:

Judy Stevenson
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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)

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Prairie Fringed Orchid in Wisconsin. [See map on last page.]

Penney writes, "We will put a sign by the road with some flags." They chose the 10 AM gathering because it gets very hot in the afternoon. Be sure to come dressed appropriately and bring bug repellent.

Please RSVP Judy Stevenson (231-3163) if you are able to attend. This will allow us to set up a car pooling system in order to conserve energy.
---Judy Stevenson

ORCHIDWIZ

Orchid Database Software - It's not just for AOS Judges

At our May meeting Gary Brendemuehl presented an overview of the computer program OrchidWiz. Data is gathered from many sources including Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Sander's hybrid registrations and American Orchid Society's (AOS) awards. It contains over 30,000 color photographs of orchids and information on almost 27,000 orchid species plus genealogy charts for more than 127,000 hybrids.

Gary demonstrated the myriad ways that information could be accessed: partial name, common name or even misspelled name, hybridizer, etc. Once the particular plant is located, the program can tell you its parents, usually WITH photos. Thousands of species have information on growing conditions in its native habitat, geographical distribution, typical number of blooms on a spike, date of bloom and light intensity recommendations. There are comprehensive culture recommendations for hybrids.

Gary owns a copy which he says is essential if you are interested in hybridizing. The Guild also owns a copy. There are a few errors, typically data entry errors and transpositions. Wayne King pointed out that a plant that he had hybridized was credited to another person with the same last name. The program is quite expensive. There is an additional \$80 per year for quarterly updates. Bottom line: amazing wealth of orchid information at your finger tips for the serious orchid grower if you do not mind spending a bit of money.

The CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY 21st ANNUAL SPEAKERS DAY

Speakers for 2009 are Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids NY) who will speak on "Phragmipedium Kovachii Hybrids and Culture" and "A Trip To Europe's Orchid Growers and What We Can Learn From Them;" and Jim Rose (Cal-Orchid CA) who will speak about "Epidendrum Culture and Breeding" and "Lycaste Culture and Breeding"

For more information see their website:
<http://www.c-we.com/cios/speakers.htm>

Wild Orchids and Night Markets in Thailand

Chunte Kongchaiya and Bill Beamish, Bang Pra, Chonburi, Thailand

Night markets are everywhere in Thailand and they sell just about everything imaginable. Fresh fruits, vegetables, seafood and meat abound in these markets as do clothes, dishes, plastic wares and new and used auto parts. Prices and quality may be lower or higher than in conventional stores. This is the place to haggle. Westerners are favorite targets as they are assumed to be rich and relatively inexperienced in the haggle game. Typically the vendors set up their stations or stalls around 3 or 4 pm and close around 8 pm or earlier if they are fortunate enough to sell their merchandise before closing time. Night markets are operated on a daily routine; for example Monday at one location, then Thursday at another location. Mostly night markets occupy the same location once or twice each week.



Figure 1. Night market with tables of wild orchids for sale. Prices range from 10 to less than 100 baht (\$ 0.30 to 3.00). Note the book on the table to illustrate the plant's flower color and appearance

most always friendly but communicate almost entirely in Thai- having said this it is amazing how much information can be communicated with only a few Thai words and a lot of hand signals. Wild orchids from Thailand as well as the neighboring countries, Myamar, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and occasionally the Phillipines may be found at these markets even though it is illegal to collect and sell wild orchids in Thailand. Sadly, this law like many others is not vigorously enforced. Wild orchids at these markets are seldom in bloom but vendors have books with illustrations of the plants in bloom. Usually it is difficult to tell how closely those on the table may ultimately resemble those in the book.

Wild orchids are usually sold just as they are stripped from the bark of their host and typically represent the local flora where they are being sold (Figures 1, 2 and 3). We live in the central region of Thailand towards the south eastern margin adjacent to Cambodia. Thus, many of the wild orchids for sale in this area come from Cambodia. Some of our work has taken us to the forests and rivers in a province called Kanchanaburi. (Remember the movie, "Bridge on the River Kwai") along Thailand's western border with Myamar. One market we used to enjoy exploring called Three Pagoda Pass, is located here and offers a large variety of wild orchids along with colorful birds and a few mammals. The vendors are from Myamar as are their goods. Prices are low especially for the locals. This market is open daily but closes around 5 pm to allow the vendors to return to Myamar by 6 pm or face a stiff



Figure 2. Another "night" market open in late afternoon. Orchids are usually stripped from their hosts and brought to market to be sold. Occasionally orchids may be brought still attached to a section of a branch or tree trunk. They may spend some time in transit before finding a new home.



Figure 3. Another table of wild orchids as they were stripped from the trees on which they grew. Note the “weigh scales” in the background. Some times wild orchids are sold by weight. Also note the large pieces of tree fern beneath the table sold as a medium for orchid attachment. This photo was taken at the Pattaya week end market that operates on Saturday and Sunday and is open all day!

small and quick with a painless “bite” but a delayed and prolonged “itch”. Some can infect their human hosts with a disease such as malaria or dengue fever. Tree leeches are another nuisance. They are found in trees or on the ground in rain forest habitat. They can readily sense and locate a potential warm-blooded host. Once detected and located, those in the trees quickly drop on their host. Those that land on their target rapidly attach and begin to rasp away soon producing copious quantities of blood. Those on the ground can move with surprising quickness and soon make their way up a leg and begin rasping. They can get to the most sensitive places! They abound in some rain forests and literally may produce a bloody mess. Then there are snakes. We have many species but most are not abundant. What snakes may lack in numbers they make up for in size and fear. Our son Bob visits us every year or so and usually spends much of his time hiking and living in the forests. On a recent trip he unexpectedly drove a large king cobra from the forest onto a roadway where it was killed by local residents (Figure 5).

Prices of wild orchids vary with their scarcity, size and, of course, the vendor’s perceived value. Species of *Dendrobium* (Figure 6) are common wherever wild orchids are sold and range widely in color, form and size. Prices are likely to range from 10 to 150 baht (\$0.30 to \$5) depending on the variety, size and number of plants in a bundle or pot. Some species may cost more (Figure 7). One large wild orchid vendor located outside Chantaburi city has a large number of species with many carrying price tags of 500 baht or more. Cultivated wild species are popular. One such orchid, now rare in the wild and subject to hybridization in cultivation is the genus *Paphiopedilum* (Figure 8).

Many of the wild orchids are so small as to be scarcely notice-

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penalty, although the nature of this penalty was never clear to me.

Lest you have the impression that wild orchids are everywhere in the wild throughout Thailand and easily collected let me point out that this is not so. Hunting for wild orchids is not for everyone. They seldom occur along the roadside or in easily accessible places having been removed from these sites years earlier. Orchid collecting usually requires a long hike over steep hills, through heavy vegetation at temperatures in excess of 35 C and in stifling humidity (Figure 4). Epiphytic orchids grow on trees often at considerable distances above the ground and there are no ladders to make the job any easier. There are additional potential hazards such as mosquitoes, tree leeches and the occasional poisonous snake. Thai mosquitoes are not plentiful and, unlike those I have encountered in North America are



Figure 4. Wild orchids photographed in their habitat in southern Thailand. It is not common to find orchids this close to the ground (Photo by Bob Beamish).

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able in the forest. These are the favorites of many collectors. Chunte and Bob, are among those that enjoy the smaller species including the search and capturing their likeness in a photograph. Sometimes they find one on the forest floor having fallen from above, presumably during a storm. These, they often bring home for care. Most survive. We find that wild orchids often require at least a year to regroup in our garden from their ordeal via the market trade and start to show evidence of being acclimatized. It needs also be said that some orchids settle in quite quickly. For others it is another matter. We have one species purchased from a roadside market in Kanchanaburi at least five years ago. The plants bloomed nicely after their first year in our garden but have not bloomed since although they remain healthy in appearance. Some of the micro species have truly beautiful flowers, none with more striking colors than



Figure 5. One of the hazards in collecting wild orchids can be snakes; in this case a 3+m king cobra. These snakes are not uncommon, quite venomous and can be quite aggressive, especially females with young. Photo was taken by Bob Beamish in the vicinity of Nan, northern Thailand

Chautachak (better known as a week end market but the plant market on Wednesday and Thursday is as exciting as it is large. It is easily accessible via the air conditioned sky train). Once you are ready to see orchids outside of Bangkok talk



Figure 7. *Bulbophyllum* or *Mastigion* sp. (?) for sale at the week end "night" market in Pattaya. This was priced at about 250 baht or \$7.00.

Dendrobium secundum (Figure 9). Others have interesting features (Figures 10, 11 and 12). or may even have a bizarre form such as *Bulbophyllum medusae*.

For the orchid enthusiast a trip to Thailand would be a wise choice. Once here it need not be expensive. The food is delicious and inexpensive. Roadside restaurants may not look like much by western standards but the food is excellent, safe and inexpensive, certainly a wonderful meal of fresh seafood can be had for under \$2. Back to the orchid trip. Should a trip be a consideration I suggest allowing a few days to recover from jet lag perhaps in Bangkok. If you are in Bangkok for a Wednesday then the plant market at

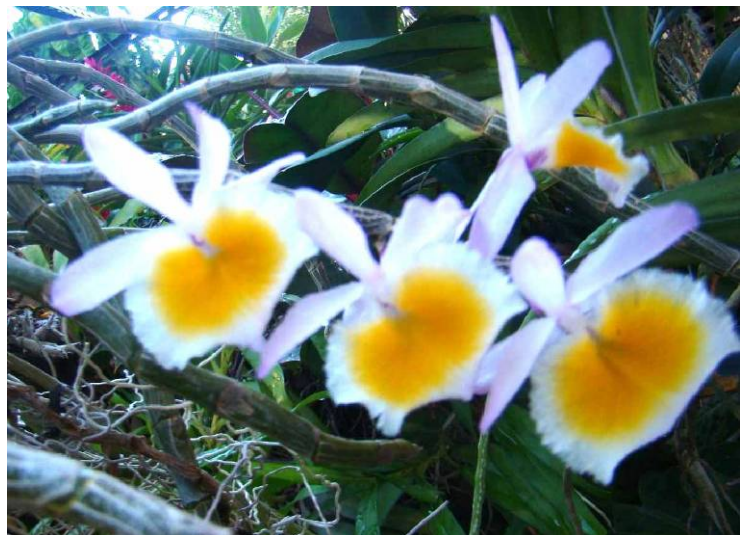


Figure 6. One of the many *Dendrobium* sp. found for sale at night markets. This one was collected in the wild and now resides in our garden

with a van driver. Vans are plentiful and you can rent a 7-9 passenger air conditioned van including the driver for about 2000 to 2500 baht per day (\$60 to 70). Many drivers speak english and they know the country! You tell them what

you would like to see and ask them to take you there as well as to suggest other similar places. They will surprise you with their knowledge. They will also suggest where to eat and where to stay overnight. I would suggest a little internet homework before you leave for Thailand. Van drivers will also take you to historic sites and many other places along the way to search out orchids. If you don't know how to start, contact us and we will help. We know some wonderful van drivers and will be pleased to put you in touch. This way you can focus your trip to your interests. Enjoy!



Figure 8. Cultivated varieties of *Paphiopedilum* at an annual orchid show held in Chonburi, February, 2009.



Figure 10. Two small but delightful wild orchids. The orchid in the upper panel is not identified (*Trias* sp.?) but nicely established in our garden, that in the lower panel is thought to be *Bulbophyllum blepharistes*.



Figure 9. *Dendrobium secundum*, a beautiful wild orchid reaching about 30 cm in height with an inflorescence of about 10 cm and containing many brilliantly colored individual flowers.



Figure 11. An unidentified wild orchid (*Dendrobium* sp.?) for sale at a flower market and now in our garden.



Figure 12. Two wild "mini" orchids. The orchid in the left panel may be *Bulbophyllum dissitiflorum*. The coin in the right panel is a Thai baht, about the size of a dime.

OGG MAY RIBBON JUDGING

First place

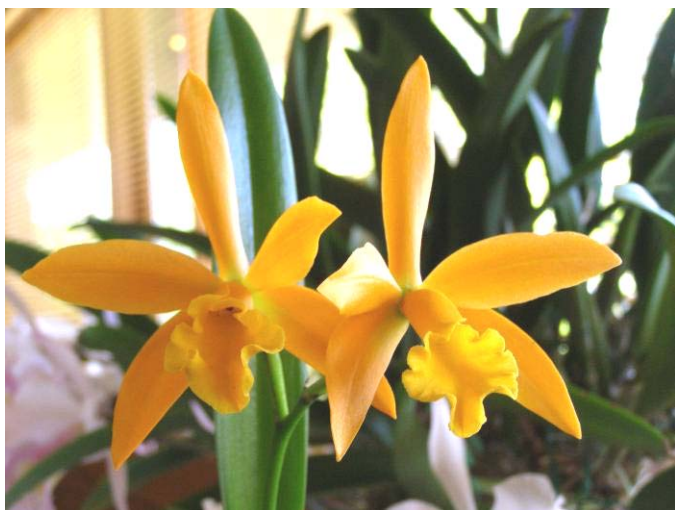
Jill Hynum	<i>Phalaenopsis equestris</i>
Jill Hynum	<i>Psychopsis Mendenhall alba</i>
Rich Narf	<i>Encyclia cordigera</i>
Irene Mackie	Phrag Demetria "Mem Don Walklet" x Twilight 'Rising Rocket'
Wayne King	Phrag Chuck Acker
Steve Thimling	Phrag Grande 'Acker's Vista'
Rich Narf	<i>Paph liemianum</i>
Judith Rapacz	Blc Jose Marti

Second Place

Irene Mackie	Phal Brother Girl 'Brother'
Steve Thimling	<i>Masdevallia infracta</i>
Steve Thimling	Masdevallia Angel Tang
Lynn West	<i>Dendrobium aggregatum</i>
Wayne King	Paph druryi x victoria-mariae
Jill Hynum	Paph Ho Chi Minh
Gary Brendemuehl	Blc Golden Tang

Third Place

Rich Narf	Phal Melody
Jill Hynum	<i>Calanthe rosea</i>



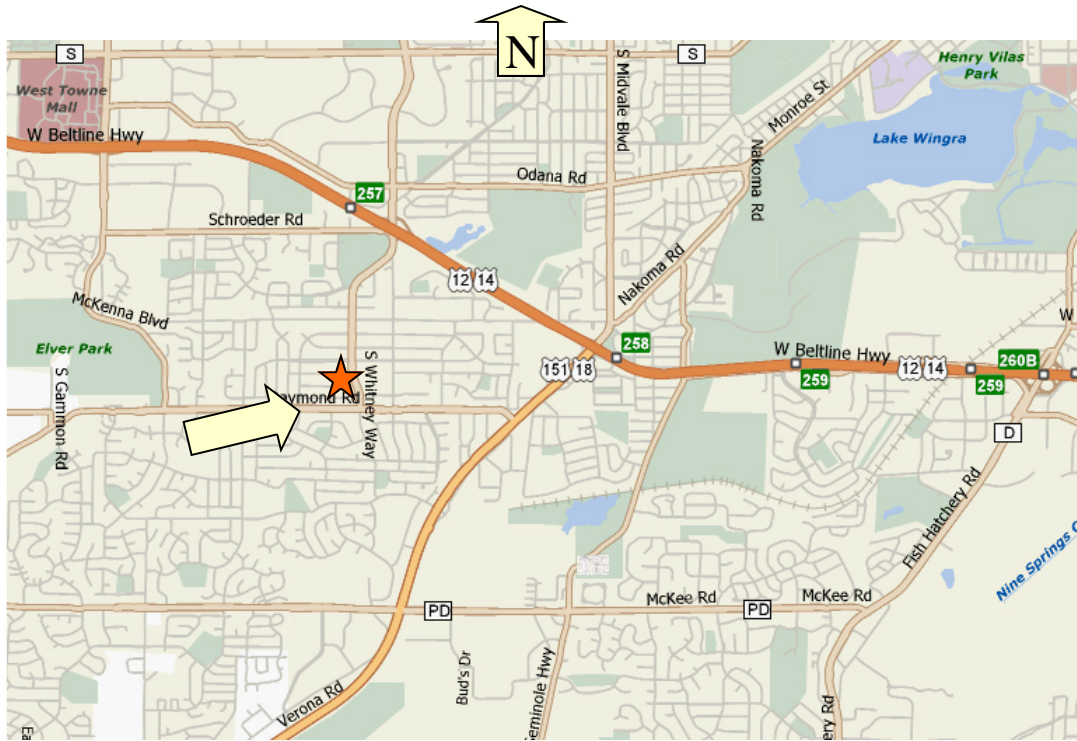
Gary Brendemuehl's Blc Golden Tang



Judith Rapacz 's Blc Jose Marti

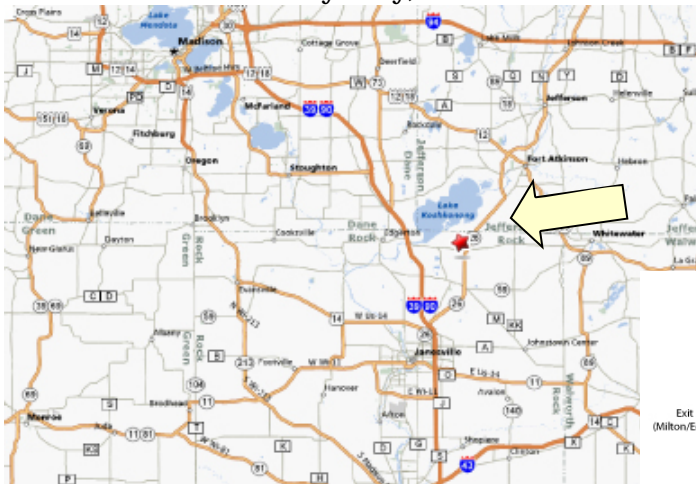
UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 13—16, 2009 Native Orchid Congress, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, WI
- July 26, 2009 Central Iowa Orchid Society presents 21st Annual Speaker's Day, Camp Dodge, Johnson, IA
- October 10-11, 2009 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
- October 30—November 1, 2009 50th Anniversary Mid-America Orchid Congress show and sale. Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, TN

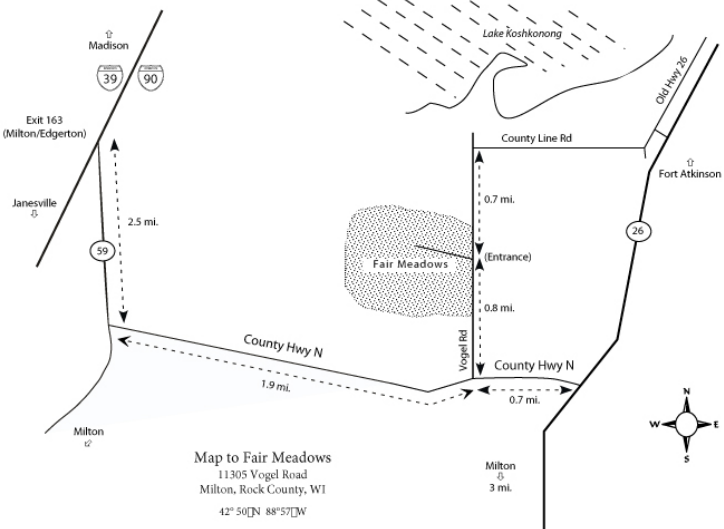


OGG PICNIC, JUNE 7TH

Jan and Judith Rapacz live at 5701 Tolman Terrace (SW corner of Tolman and Whitney Way) in Madison



See detail below for driving directions



**Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Trip
July 12th, 10 am**

“Fair Meadows,” 11305 Vogel Road, Milton