

# March 2009 *The Orchid Grower*

*Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison*



## NEXT MEETING MARCH 15th

### “Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid and its Conservation”

Ursula Petersen has an M.S. in Botany/Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.S. in Conservation of Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Ursula's past work includes interpretive naturalist, habitat evaluator and species monitoring. Ursula is conducting a long-term monitoring project on the Rough-legged Hawk in northern Sweden.

Ursula developed and manages the Endangered Species Habitat Program for the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture in Madison since 1991. Working with the U.S. EPA and other partners, the program's two-fold goal is to protect federally endangered and threatened species from pesticide and related harm and to minimize the economic impacts on affected parties. In this program, Ursula developed the monitoring aspect of species protection, with the eastern

#### Meeting Dates

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

- March 14-25, Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Neenah
- March 21-22 Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Garden
- March 27-29, Central Ohio Orchid Society Show/Spring MAOC, Columbus OH
- March 28-29, 34th Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show
- October 10-11, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL



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prairie fringed orchid serving as the program's totem. To date, the program has monitored this orchid statewide for 12 seasons and learned some of its secrets of need and survival.

### Reflections of Orchid Quest 2009

As I look back over Orchid Quest 2009, the word “*vision*” keeps coming to my mind.

I think that this VISION that I am talking about is the result of having attended the World Orchid Conference in Miami, Florida in January 2008. Six members of OGG (Sandy Delamater, Jill Hynum, Jan and Judith Rapacz, Sue Reed, and Judy Stevenson) were able to attend that meeting. It was here that we had a glimpse of other possibilities that would expand and enhance our 23<sup>rd</sup> Orchid Quest for 2009. The quilts, florist displays, student artwork, the guild's garden theme exhibit and the awards given to the 21 “Best of Class Awards” are all an outcome of WOC.

It was truly amazing how OGG members bond together to pull off this

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Officers and Committees

### President:

Rich Narf (2010)  
[znarfi@powercom.net](mailto:znarfi@powercom.net)

### Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2009)  
[jhynum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhynum@sbcglobal.net)

### Secretary:

Annette Minter (2009)  
[Studio725@charter.net](mailto:Studio725@charter.net)

### Treasurer:

Irene Mackie (2010)  
[Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com](mailto:Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com)

### Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)  
[jwilliamson@usgs.gov](mailto:jwilliamson@usgs.gov)

Steve Thimling (2010)  
[orchidbird@charter.net](mailto:orchidbird@charter.net)

Audrey Lucier (2009)  
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### Away Shows:

Judith Rapacz  
[jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu)

### Hospitality:

Audrey Lucier

### Librarian:

Liz Wood (2008)  
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### Membership:

Board of Directors

### Newsletter:

Denise Baylis  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto: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:

Gary Brendemuehl  
[gbrendemuehl@verizon.net](mailto: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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amazing event. As my co-chair Judith Rapacz put it, *Orchid Quest is all about compassion, hard work and a LOT OF JOY AND PLEASURE!* We have so many GEMS in our society! A BIG THANK YOU to all of you that made this event a success. As you also know, we did not have a corporate sponsor this year. Nonetheless, I predict that we will be very close to breaking even or perhaps will realize a small profit. This is because of *sponsorships* from at least eleven OGG members and because of the *Silent Auction*.

Look at these comments from charter member Wayne King. "It was a great show and it feels good to know that the considerable efforts of a great many people over the years have had such a positive effect on the community. My only regret is that the others, who were involved from the onset, as I was, could not be here to see how far the Guild and the Show have developed since its earliest days. How so few could accomplish so much is, indeed, inspiring. Thanks particularly in recent years to the leadership, but also to those who have worked behind the scenes and will become our future leaders. I'm sure I don't speak just for myself but also for those whose voices can no longer be heard."

This is a comment from one of our vendors and a judge, Tom Kalina/Fox Valley Orchids, Ltd., "You guys and gals are the best organized of any of the Mid-Am societies when it comes to using the latest software. The time saved is greatly appreciated by all of vendors who look forward to attending this show every year!

Lastly, Herman Pigors the retiring head judge has this to say about Orchid Quest "

**A NOTE FROM HERMANN:** I want to thank all of you and congratulate you and everyone in the Guild who had any part in the monumental show effort. It was super in many ways, and probably the best ever from my observation.

The registration went well and without problems. The quilts added a great deal of class and interest. The exhibits were many, and "Orchids" won the show trophy for the first time, and with a great majority of votes. The sales area was well supplied with many high quality plants. The lecture spot I had filled the room to capacity with many people standing and some sitting on the floor. The judges' luncheon



"The silent auction did very well and boosted the revenue for OQ a lot" --- Joan Smalley, standing with Lorraine Snyder

## Orchid Quest 2009 OGG Exhibit

Thank you to all of the OGG members: the 17 members and Olbrich Botanical Gardens who brought plants, to the many members who brought props for the display (whether or not the props were used), to Orchids Garden Centre and Nursery for the arbor and mulch and transportation, to all who helped directly or indirectly by transporting materials to and from the locker, or by doing any and all jobs at OQ to free up other individuals to work on the display, and to the chief placement and design officials Amy Ripp and Gary Brendemuehl! We received a First place ribbon and the Best of Class for the exhibit!



For several years Gary and Amy have been the design team of the OGG display at Orchid Quest. They have a great ability to build the staging and coordinate the flow of the orchid colors yielding a beautiful display. Thank you, Gary and Amy!

We had 76 plants entered from 17 members and from Olbrich Botanical Gardens! At Orchid Quest it is very tough to get a ribbon, as you may have noticed. A professional grower may have taken all of the Paphiopedilum awards with ribbons and three AOS awards, but our members did very well, just not in the paph area! The members' culture is greatly improving which is demonstrated by the ribbons on the members' plants to the awards for the exhibit. An exhibit is only as good as the orchid plants in the exhibit! So thank you all!!



First place and Best of Class (for respective classes):

- Exhibit
- *Dendrobium glumaceum* (species name in doubt) - Olbrich Botanical Gardens
- *Pleurothallis nephrocardia*, Best Pleurothallid, and pulled for AOS judging- Olbrich Botanical Gardens
- Lycaste Sunray (skinneri '389' x Shoalhaven) and AM/AOS- Susan Reed

First Place

- *Aslla Africana subsp. Africana*- Gary Brendemuehl
- Brassavola Little Stars (*B. nodosa x cordata*) – Sandy Delamater
- Odcdm. Sunlight 'Hiilo Honey'- Jerry King
- *Zootrophion endresianum*- Olbrich Botanical Gardens
- Phrag. Paul Eugene Conroy- Meg McLaughlin



The OGG team hard at work

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- Cookara Tropical Snowflake (Dial Snowflake x Ctna Keith Roth) - Meg McLaughlin

### Second Place

- Dendrobium Green Mist (*johnsoniae* x *convolutum*) - Susan Reed
- Phalenopsis (Fortune Buddah x Brother Pumpkin) - Lorraine Snyder
- *Brassavola nodosa*- Sandy Delamater
- *Ascocentrum ampullaceum*- Jill Hynum
- Bc. Maiki 'Mayumi' - Meg McLaughlin

### Third Place

- Phal (Small Sensation 'Maria Teresa' AM/AOS x Nobby's Amy 'Taiwan 2000') – Jerry King
- *Bulbophyllum nigritum*- Olbrich Botanical Gardens
- Phrag. Fedora Brocha – Wayne King
- *Dendrobium atrovioleaceum* var *pygmy*



Photos by Rich Narf  
*Zootrophion endresianum*, from  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

— Susan Reed



Above left, Phal Chromium Emperor grown by Wayne King; to the right is Phal Taisuko Fox also grown by Wayne King; and bottom left is *Brassavola nodosa*, grown by Sandy Delamater

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was gourmet and much appreciated.

Seven AOS awards were given. The judges' favors were most generous and much appreciated. In the name of all the judges I want to thank you all for the thoughtfulness and selection. The cheese is excellent and the wine also much appreciated.

When I arrived at work and Greg unwrapped the beautiful "Award" for being judging chair, I was overwhelmed. With all you had to do and think about, the gift is doubly appreciated, and I thank whoever had the idea and put much effort and work into it.

Due to AOS rules I cannot be chair of judging at any show any more. I can judge however, and can assist in any way needed. Should you need special help or input in any of the future society matters, I will be happy to be of service within reasonable capacities.

Meanwhile I feel you all need a good rest from the show effort, review its success, and plan for the future in harmony and cooperation. A large part of the orchid growing enjoyment is the interaction with some of the finest people in the country. Many Thanks for the opportunities you have given me so serve, and Oak Hill Gardens to grow.

All good wishes to all your members, Hermann

## **Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress Columbus, Ohio**

On behalf of Tom Franczak, show chair, and myself, as judging chair, I would like to invite you to attend the spring 2009 Mid-America Orchid Congress in Columbus, Ohio. The show commemorates the joint 50th anniversaries of the host society, the Central Ohio Orchid Society and the Mid-America Orchid Congress.

The show dates are March 27-29, 2009 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, 1375 North Cassady Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. Ribbon and AOS judging will be Saturday morning, March 28, 2009, beginning at 8 a.m. A light breakfast will precede judging. If you would like to clerk, there will be a place to note that on the registration form.

I would also encourage you not just to attend the show but to also register for the Congress meeting - the Central Ohio Orchid Society has commitments from the following speakers:

- Cassio van den Berg - "Recent Developments in Cattleya Group Taxonomy"
- Paul Storm - "The Weird, Wild, Wiggly and Wonderful World of Laelias (Schomburgkias), Myrmecophilas, and their Hybrids"
- Howard Bronstein - "The New AQ - Present and Future"
- Mark Sullivan - founder of the Orchid Conservation Coalition on "ex-situ conservation and habitat loss"

For many of you, Columbus is a day trip. For my out-of-state friends, additional information, including a direct link to the hotel's web site can be found at the COOS's show website [www.maoc.coosinfo.info](http://www.maoc.coosinfo.info)

As of this writing, the show registration form is not posted but it will be very shortly. An e-mail address has been created if you have questions: [springmaoc2009@earthlink.net](mailto:springmaoc2009@earthlink.net). If you plan to clerk and want to indicate that, independent of registering for the Congress, please e-mail me and Tom Franczak, [tom\\_franzcak@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_franzcak@hotmail.com).

—Jan Yates

## OGG Ribbon Judging February 2009

### First Place

Sandy Delamater	Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara ( <i>primuliniumalba</i> x <i>hynaldinaumalba</i> )
Lorraine Snyder	Paph. Barblight
Irene Mackie	Dend. Andreae Millar ( <i>atiovioleaceum</i> x <i>convolutum</i> )
Lynn West	Slc Tutankamen "Pop"
Heidi Whetmore	Vanda Manuvandu

### Second Place

Rich Narf	Phrag. Hanne Popow
Irene Mackie	Haemaria (Ludisia) discolor
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph. moquetteanum</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph. fairieanum alba</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Paph. Wardii</i> x sib. (Mint Green El x Hsingying)
Jeff Baylis	Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite "Chariot of Fire"
Lynn West	Phal. hybrid
Sandy Delamater	<i>Coelogyne flaccida</i>

### Third Place

Jill Hynum	<i>Paph. armeniacum</i> "Nugget X Hsingying Concon "Ching Huu"
Annette Minter	<i>Paph. sukahakulii</i>

### ***Phragmipedium kovachii* blooms at last!!!**

#### **The *Phragmipedium kovachii* saga has come to a rewarding milestone for Chuck Acker**

In April of 2005, he and long time friend Jerry Fischer of Orchids Limited, traveled to Peru to be the first U.S. growers to import the newly discovered Peruvian species. They lovingly carried the tiny seedlings which were planted in flasks, aboard the aircraft in their hand luggage. (For those not familiar with orchid seedling propagation, flasks are sealed vessels filled with a jelly-like solution of agar which allows the seedlings to grow in an enclosed, sterile environment until they are large enough to be potted into orchid media.) With the post 9-11 airline security rules restricting liquids in carry-on luggage, this may not even be possible today!

The trip was a success as Chuck arrived home with six flasks of the *Phragmipedium kovachii* which were at that time very tiny specs of plant tissue just starting their first leaf. He knew it would be many months before these plants could be removed from the sealed flask. Preventing the *kovachii* seedlings from becoming contaminated with deadly fungus or bacteria was Chuck's main concern. Even a slight bump or drop of the flask vessel can be enough to introduce deadly pathogens. Incredibly, after six months, and an international airplane ride, all was fine! The plants were successfully removed from the flasks and planted into compots.

After a period of growing in compots Chuck noticed a dramatic difference in the rate of growth between the various seedlings. So dramatic that it warranted sending leaf samples to the University of Florida for DNA testing. The test results concluded that he did indeed have two different varieties growing from what was supposed to be all one species.

It turned out that approximately 95% of the plants Chuck thought to be *Phragmipedium kova-*



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*chii* were actually a hybrid of *Phragmipedium wallisii* x *kovachii*. This mix up came from a labeling mistake in the Peruvian lab and was not good news. Chuck had high hopes of using the newly discovered species in his *Phragmipedium* breeding program, not to mention the cost and effort of the endeavor of traveling to Peru. Sadly this left him with only about 40 plants of the true species he was so obsessed to acquire.

Nurturing the remaining plants was challenging, because no one knew how to grow this new species. During the experimental phase Chuck lost some of the 40 plants however, a few of the plants were growing exceptionally well. Throughout the next several months constant attention was given to those outstanding plants to ensure their well being. That diligence would soon pay off as one of the plants had begun to send out a flower spike early in October 2008.

In most cases when a *Phragmipedium* initiates a flower spike it takes less than 45 days to flower, so Chuck assumed the same for the *Phragmipedium kovachii*. Not so, as this species still was not flowering nearly five months later. After watching the developing spike for so many weeks he began to think about the possibility of this plant flowering for Orchid Quest! Again, not knowing exactly how long this developing spike was going to take to flower, he watched as the days to OQ were fast approaching. The day before OQ the *kovachii* was still a beautiful furry bud, and Chuck dejectedly succumbed to the fact that the flower was not going to open in time for the show.

Upon arriving to the greenhouse Friday morning Chuck immediately went to check on the progress from an overnight's worth of growth and to his amazement the bud had popped nearly completely open! Knowing that the judging wasn't until early Saturday morning he knew another full day of development would bring the flower to nearly full form, and that it did!

This chain of proceedings led Chuck to be the first grower in the U.S. to successfully bloom a plant of this species from the flask as well as the first grower to display one at a show. His *Phragmipedium kovachii* won Best in Show, Best Cypripedium Alliance, Best *Phragmipedium*, Best of Class, First Place ribbon and was pulled for AOS judging. An AOS award was not given because the judges felt the flower was not yet completely open.



*Phragmipedium kovachii*

Photograph by Rich Narf

#### You know you are addicted to orchids when....

- ... you never BBQ kebabs because the bamboo skewers are all being used as stakes for your orchids.
- ... you buy your plant and pet sitter a few orchids, so that she gets interested in them, thereby making her less likely to demolish the ones you have.
- ... vacations out of town are centered around visits to orchid growers you haven't visited yet.

# AOS AWARD WINNERS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT WEBER



*Paph ameniacum*, Highly Recommended, Fox Valley Orchids

This year seven plants were selected for AOS awards, including one belonging to our own Sue Reed. (See accompanying story). Fox Valley Orchids was a big winner.



*Bulb plumatum*, Judge's Commendation, grower Claire Rejohn



*Paph delenantii*, Horticultural Merit, Orchids Garden Centre



*Paph St. Swithins*, Award of Merit,



*Paph fairieanum*, Highly Recommended Certificate, Fox Valley Orchids



*Paph Jennifer kalian*, Fox Valley Orchids



*Lycaste Sunray 'Sue's Pride'* AM/AOS, Sue Reed

## THE SAGA OF THE NAME CHANGE

### Lycaste Sunray 'Sue's Pride' AM/AOS

By Susan Reed

This year at Orchid Quest I was lucky enough to have a nice blooming orchid plant at the correct time of year which was lucky enough to receive an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society. (Lucky is the operative word for winning an award!) The plant received 86 points out of a possible 100 points.

The points were divided into a possible 30 points for flower form, which was divided into subdivisions of general form, sepals, petals, labellum and caudae.

Possible thirty points for color of flower categorized by general color, sepals, petals and labellum. Other characteristics for a possible total of 40 points consisted of size of flower, substance and texture, habit and arrangement of inflorescences, floriferousness and stem, and stem. I don't know the break down on the point system for each of these groups for my plant but I do have one judge's tally sheet. He had given the plant 82 points with 25 for each of the first two categories and 32 for the last grouping.



Photograph by Rich Narf

Lycaste Sunray 'Sue's Pride' AM/AOS



Photograph by Sue Reed

The AM/AOS certificate gives a description of the colors of the flower parts describing them as blushed pink, and dark rose. An interesting comment was "Foliage in Pristine condition"! So foliage does play a role in the general impression of the plant for judging.

There were 5 judges judging the plant, three with laptop computers. From the laptop computers' monitors you could see 3 lycaste images with the AOS measurements.

From Gary's searching in OrchidWiz, this plant has received the highest AOS points of any of this cross! The plant also received the highest points at Orchid Quest from

information from Herman!

To get to the point of finally receiving the AM/AOS certificate is another story.

On Saturday morning at the OQ AOS judging, I was told that my plant would receive a provisional award because the cross was not named. I would not receive the certificate until the hybrid was named. So I was told to contact where I had purchased the plant to find out who had made the cross, and to find out if it was named. If it wasn't named, I would have to ask the person who had made the cross, to name the cross within a reasonable length of time or for them to give me permission to name the cross. So needless to say I was getting suggestions on a name for the cross. AOS requires a clonal name be given to the plant, hence the name 'Sue's Pride', but the cross had to also have a name. The orchid could not be known as skinneri '389' x Shoalhaven.

I had bought the plant at the December 2006 OGG meeting from our speaker, Leo Schordje. Leo had recently purchased the plant from CalOrchids whose tag was in the plant. I emailed CalOrchids Saturday evening after they were closed for the weekend, naturally! A search on the internet yielded a translated Japanese list of lycaste crosses. I found that the cross was called Sunray and was made in 1991 by a Mr. Alcorn who was from Australia. This information was

## Orchid Conservation Alliance Trip To Ecuador

I am very happy to inform you that the Orchid Conservation Alliance is sponsoring an orchid trip to Ecuador in June 2009. We have organized a stunning two week travel extravaganza to see Ecuador's orchids in the wild. This trip will be led by people with extensive experience traveling and viewing orchids in Ecuador: Ivan Portilla from Ecuagenera and Ron Kaufmann from the Orchid Conservation Alliance. We also plan to spend time exploring orchid reserves with Lou Jost, director of the EcoMinga Foundation, and Joe Meisel from the Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation. Ecuador's orchid biodiversity is unparalleled by that of any other country. This small nation is home to more than 3500 orchid species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. This will be an excellent opportunity to see these magnificent orchids in their natural habitat!

Please visit the Orchid Conservation Alliance's web site at [www.orchidconservationalliance.org](http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org) and click on Orchid Trips to view the itinerary and obtain more information. Space is limited, so get your name on the list by making a refundable deposit as soon as possible. I hope you will join us! My bag is already packed.

Peter Tobias  
President, Orchid Conservation Alliance

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not backed up by a search on the Royal Horticulture Society website.

On Sunday, I was told that the name Sunray needed to be supported by other documentation. So I thought I might yet be naming the cross! But Gary was able to use the Guild's copy of OrchidWiz to find that the cross name is registered as Sunray! This was too late for me to get my AOS to me by the end of the week.)

On Monday I received an email from CalOrchids that informed me of the name of the cross, the buyer from them, and that the orchid was purchased from Japanese growers as a seedling. Thus I had another source that confirmed the information that I had found on the internet. By using the internet, I was able to find out a lot of information about my plant, because it was an older cross. A newer cross might not be so easy to locate. So it would be nice to have any of your crosses searched on OrchidWiz before a show to make sure you have a name for any named crosses!

certificate at the show. (I was able to notify the AOS judges on Monday, so the certificate was mailed.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 14-15, 2009 Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah
- March 21-22 Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd. Glencoe IL
- March 27-29, 2009, Central Ohio Orchid Society Show/Spring MAOC, Columbus OH
- March 28-29, 2009, 34th Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Putnam Museum and IMAX Theatre, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA
- October 10-11, 2009 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL

## OLBRICH GARDENS "Orchid Tour And Take Home"

Join Cindy Cary, Conservatory Plant and Wildlife Assistant, for a tour of Olbrich's orchid collection and stunning behind-the-scenes orchid room which contains hundreds of orchid plants. Next, learn the basics of caring for orchids so you can grow these elegant plants yourself. Cary will address methods of selection, watering, and fertilizing. All participants will take home a small orchid.

**Saturday, March 21, 12:30-3 pm**  
**Registration Deadline:** March 12  
**Cost:** \$25 member/\$32 public |  
**Course Number:** 20-20

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))