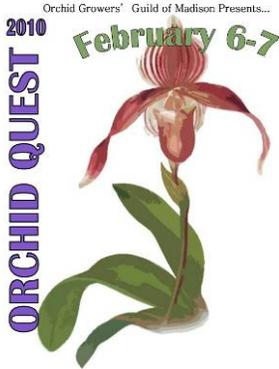


November 2009 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



Next Meeting November 15th at Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

The next OGG meeting will be held at Orchids Garden Centre. Chuck Acker will talk about "Common Orchid diseases and Plant Hygiene." Chuck asks that you DO NOT bring any diseased plants. Bring a photo instead. As usual there will be ribbon judging at 12:30 and the talk will begin at 1:30. Don't forget to bring the plant *Sophrolaeliocattleya Aloha Apricot 'Waunakee'*, you received at "Chuck's Annual Orchid Plant Challenge" last year to be judged. Chuck will provide a printed outline of his presentation to members so that we can use it to follow along and for later referral.

Meeting Dates

**November 15—
Orchids Garden
Centre &
Nursery**

December 20—Meeting Room

January 17, 2010—Meeting Room

February 21—Meeting Room

March 21—Meeting Room

April 3—Orchid Sale

April 18—Meeting Room

May 16—Meeting Room

June—Picnic TBA

September 26—Meeting Room

October 17—Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Upstate New York Orchid Adventure By Judy Stevenson

Last July, Walt and I explored Upstate New York on our way to family events. As students in college there wasn't time to explore. One place that we visited was Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park in Canandaigua, north of the Finger Lake of the same name.



Sonnenberg was a vacation home started in 1885 for Frederick Thompson (Governor of New York and later President of a NYC Bank) and his wife Mary. It was one of five estates that they owned. The couple had no children but many nieces and nephews who visited.

The house was constructed on 50 acres of land in the Queen Anne style, popular in the last quarter of the 19th century. Mrs. Thompson was an avid garden enthusiast and apparently had as many as 400 gardeners who managed the property. There was an Italian garden, an old fashioned garden, rose garden, rock garden and a Victorian Glass House which was what most intrigued me. I had read about these greenhouses that were built in the Victorian Era by people with wealth but this was first one I had ever seen first hand. In the Victorian era, people loved anything new and exotic plant but only the very wealthy could afford to own orchids.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Blackhawk Ribbon Judging Results	5
CITES and Plant Rescue Center Program	2
Errata	6
Next Meeting	1
OGG October Ribbon Judging	6
Orchid Digest Speaker's Day	7
<i>Paphiopedilum vietnamense</i> Conservation Program	3
Synopsis of "Darwin's Legacy as a 200 year old Orchid Enthusiast"	3
Up-Coming Events	6
Upstate New York Orchid Adventure	1

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(Continued from page 1)



Mrs. Thompson had a love of orchids and could afford to collect them. She went on a total of seven around the world tours. She traveled specifically to the tropics to find orchids for her collection. There is documentation that on a trip taken to Mexico, she collected orchid specimens from the wild. Unfortunately a porter on the train threw them out because he thought they were rubbish. She apparently was not happy about this major mistake.

The orchid collection at Sonnenberg still contains many of their own original orchids. In addition, they estate is now a **Plant Rescue Center (PRC)**. When

plants confiscated by the federal government (due to noncompliance with import/export regulations, see accompanying CITES story) need special care, they are sent to the Sonnenberg greenhouse. In 1998, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture confiscated 373 plant shipments at USA ports. Of those, 369 shipments were sent to PRC's containing some 3,419 orchids. In 2006, there were just 62 PRC's across 25 states.

Sonnenberg is allowed to rescue these plants because they are a non-profit public botanical garden. They accept and care for confiscated plants as a unit for 30 days while the U.S.D.A. waits to hear if the exporting country wants them returned. If after the 30 day waiting period the exporting country does not reclaim them, they are permitted to display plant shipments with their collection. However, the plants remain the property of the U.S. Government. While they may not trade, sell or otherwise dispose of the original shipment, they may do so with propagules (cuttings or seeds that create new plants).



CITES and Plant Rescue Center Program

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) is an international agreement to document and regulate global trade in specimens of wild animals and plants in order to ensure that uncontrolled trade does not threaten their survival. Occasionally, plants transported across international bounda-

(Continued from page 2)

ries without required CITES permits are confiscated by border authorities. If plants cannot be sent back to their country of origin, they are placed into a PRC, which agrees to maintain and care for them in perpetuity. The Plant Rescue Program was established in 1978 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency in charge of implementing the requirements of CITES in the United States.

Orchids face an uncertain future through overexploitation, habitat loss and impacts of climate change. Botanic gardens have traditionally been centers in orchid horticulture, research and conservation as orchids generate wide public appeal. With habitats under threat, orchid conservation programs will ultimately depend upon developing ecological restoration technologies, whereby orchids can be reintroduced into restored habitats from stock retained in botanic gardens. The United States Botanic Garden is one of 62 institutions that participate in the Plant Rescue Center Program. Hundreds of protected and threatened plants, mostly orchids and cacti, have been accepted into the USBG collections through the Plant Rescue Center Program and used for conservation and education programs.

***Paphiopedilum vietnamense* Conservation Program**

In 1998, *Paphiopedilum vietnamense*, a previously unknown orchid species was discovered in Vietnam. Unscrupulous orchid collectors dug up and illegally exported specimens and some were seized by customs authorities. As mentioned earlier, seized plants are either returned to the country from which they were smuggled or placed into a PRC by CITES authorities. When an illegal shipment of *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* plants was seized in 1999, the USBG agreed to accept and care for the plants.



Paphiopedilum vietnamense /USBG

As a Plant Rescue Center, the USBG felt a responsibility to make an effort to contribute to the conservation of the species as a whole. In an effort to cool the demand for wild-collected specimens from decimated native populations of *Paphiopedilum vietnamense*, the USBG collaborated with a commercial orchid grower and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring this orchid into legal cultivation. Seedlings from plants held at the USBG are being grown in accordance with CITES regulations and offered to botanical gardens and the general public. It is hoped that by making plants legally and readily available at a reasonable price, illegally collected plants will be devalued and pressure on wild populations will decline.

From USBG and USFW

“Darwin’s Legacy as a 200 year old Orchid Enthusiast” Synopsis of Prof. Ken Cameron’s Talk of October 18th

Ken Cameron reprised a version of his OQ2009 presentation which most OGG members had to miss at the time. Not only is 2009 the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth but also the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*.

(Continued from page 3)

How does Darwin's work relate to orchids? He was a keen general naturalist, whose passion developed at an early age which was probably solidified during his voyage on the HMS Beagle when in his thirties. From Darwin's meticulous notes in his journal, we can ascertain that the Galapagos Island visit provided the turning point on his way of thinking.



The Origin of Species was written to be read by non-specialists and attracted widespread interest on its publication. As Darwin was an eminent scientist, his findings were taken seriously and the evidence he presented generated scientific, philosophical, and religious discussion. Darwin was criticized extensively by his peers. They argued that in order for the theory of evolution by means of natural selection to be valid, then mates would need to choose from among prospective partners and sexual reproduction would result in offspring with differing physical characteristics from which to choose. At the time, it was assumed that flowering plants (most being bisexual) self-fertilized. So, how could the theory be applied to some life forms, but not others? Darwin set forth to demonstrate that even plants go out of their way whenever possible to avoid self-fertilization and inbreeding.

Field studies and practical scientific investigations that were initially a recreation for Darwin, a relief from the drudgery of writing, developed into enjoyable and challenging experiments. Aided in his work by his family, friends (he had a close relationship with Joseph Hooker, Director of Kew Gardens), and a wide circle of correspondents across Britain and worldwide, Darwin tapped into the current vogue for growing exotic orchids.

Darwin responded by using orchids to explain in detail how they avoided self-fertilization in *On the various contrivances by which British and foreign orchids are fertilised by insects, and on the good effects of intercrossing*. Not only are orchids bisexual like most flowers (with both male anthers producing pollen and female pistils producing seeds), but they have actually lost all but one male and one female organ and have fused them into a single novel structure called the orchid column. It would seem that orchids would be hermaphroditic and yet they almost never self-fertilize in nature. Darwin showed example after example of the amazing strategies orchids use to entice insects into their flower to ensure cross-pollination.

The most spectacular example is *Angraecum sesquipedale* from Madagascar. The flower has a nectar spur up to 18 inches long. Darwin hypothesized that there must be a moth with a tongue long enough to tap the nectar in the long spur and that would effectively cause pollination of this orchid. Many years later, in 1903, the insect was discovered and only recently has a video captured the moth actually visiting the flower.

Darwin had another reason to be concerned about inbreeding and outcrossing. The Darwin and Wedgwood families had intermarried for generations. In the four generations founded by Darwin's grandparents, 61% remained childless. Darwin himself married his first cousin and most of their children died young or suffered serious health problems. In fact, 73% of the children born from these first-cousin marriages did not reproduce.

Darwin concluded his orchid book stating, "Unless we bear in mind the good effects which have been proved to follow in most cases from cross-fertilization, it is an astonishing fact that the flowers of Orchids should not have been regularly self-fertilized. It apparently demonstrates that there must be something injurious in this latter process, of which I have elsewhere given direct proof. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that nature tells us, in the most emphatic manner, that she abhors perpetual self-fertilization." For Darwin, the topic was clearly not only one of scientific inquiry, but also of a personal nature.

——— Denise Baylis

Blackhawk Orchid Society Show 2009

Set-up and take down Sandy Delamater
 OGG Display 3rd place

First Place

Wayne King
 Wayne King
 Wayne King
 Sue Reed
 Sandy Delamater
 Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery
 Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery
 Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

Brassavola nodosa (sp)
 Kagawara Christie Low
 SLC Acker's Royal Hue
Ornithocephalus inflexus (sp)
 Zygo. Rhern Moonlight
Paph. philippinense (sp)
 Phrag. Rosy Glow 'Cheeks' [Best of class]
 Vanda Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride'

Second Place

Sue Reed
 Sandy Delamater
 Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

Phal bellina (violacea) alba (sp)
 Blc. Hawaii Stars 'Paradise'
 Ascda.Princess Mikasa 'Pink'

Third Place

Wayne King
 Sue Reed
 Sue Reed

Dendrochilum cobbianum (sp)
 Psychopsis Mendenhall alba 'Yellow Butterfly'
 Paph ((Makui x curtisii) x Maudiae) x Paph
 (Maudiae 'Napa Valley' HCC/AOS) x sib.
Miltonia roezlii (sp)
Eria fragrans (sp)

Sandy Delamater
 Sandy Delamater



First Place winner *Ornithocephalus inflexus* grown by Sue Reed



Left: First Place winner and Best of Class Phrag. Rosy Glow 'Cheeks' grown by Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery. Below: First Place winner SLC Acker's Royal Hue grown by Wayne King



Photographs by Sandy Delamater

OGG Ribbon Judging October 2009

First Place

Annette Minter
Dennis Pfarrer
Jill Hynum
Judith Rapacz

Encyclia cochleata
Dtps Chain Xen Queen
Sophronitis cernua
Paph ((Makui x curtisii) x Maudiae) x Paph (Maudiae 'Napa Valley'
HCC/AOS) x sib.

Second Place

Judy Stevenson
Judy Stevenson
Dennis Pfarrer
Jeff Baylis
Jodie Thistle

Phalaenopsis harlequin type
Ascocentrum (Mona Church x ampullaceum)
Bulbophyllum carunculatum
Epidendrum parviflorum
Onc. Sweet Ears 'Pacific Gold'



Sophronitis cernua grown by Jill Hynum



Bulbophyllum carunculatum grown by
Dennis Pfarrer

ERRATA

Batavia Orchid Show results reported in the April/May 2009 Newsletter should be corrected to read for Susan Reed's paphs: Second Place for Paph Estella; and for *Paph charlesworthii*, First Place, Best of Class, and the Ernie Gemeinhart Award for Best Paph of Show. Regrets for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Up-Coming Events

- **February 6 – 7, 2010.** Orchid Growers' Guild Orchid Quest, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Center, Madison, WI
- **February 20 – 21, 2010.** Chicago Suburban Orchid Show, Sponsored by the Batavia Orchid Society; Dupage County Fairground
- **March 13-14, 2010.** Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah. Contact: David Bluma, 1367 Eagle Feather Tr., Neenah, WI 54956, (920) 428-4595; davidbluma@aol.com
- **March 20 – 21, 2010.** Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL

ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY

Photographs by Judith Rapacz

The seventh Orchid Digest Speaker's Day, this year featuring Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, was held at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA June 13th 2009.

Members of surrounding Orchid Societies and individuals displayed their flowering orchids in a mini-show. Two exhibitors won a one-year membership to Orchid Digest for best species (*Cuitlauzina pendula*) and best hybrid (Grammatophyllum Yuan Nan Tiger) selected by a judging team.



Best Species (*Cuitlauzina pendula*)

Dr. Harold Koopowitz welcomed close to 100 attendees and introduced the presenters. Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids) spoke about "*Phragmipedium kovachii* and Its Hybrids." Glen showed many images of *Phrag. kovachii* hybrids - to date there are 16 registered hybrids - but said that, in his opinion, the best hybrid is Alfredo Manrique (*kovachii* x Walter Schomberg) [See Davyd Booth's article/photos in the SOA June 2009 Newsletter.] He also explained the importance of using limestone, calcium and magnesium to imitate the habitat in which *Phrag. kovachii* grows.

Bill Goldner's (Woodstream Orchids) topic was "The Standard Complex Paphiopedilums of Papa Aroha." Bill showed images of the best of these hybrids, such as Paph. Inka Harvest and Paph. Pavarotti, along with novelty combinations of white, spotted, red, yellow, yellow-brushed and green, including what is being awarded in today's world.

Mark Hachadorian (N.Y. Botanical Garden) explained "Growing Specimen Orchids." Mark talked about Paphiopedilum specimens and some of the tricks to replant, clean, divide and fertilize some of the easier growing slipper orchids.

Frank Smith (Krull-Smith Orchids) gave his views on "Breeding Slipper Orchids." Frank spoke of his beginnings as an orchid grower and about some of the Paphiopedilums that he used years ago to start his breeding program to achieve some of the most awarded Paphs around, including gold medals at the last WOC in Miami.

The talks were followed by a special presentation of the Orchid Digest Medal to Dr. Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics unLimited for his many years of personal and professional contributions to the Paphiopedilum world. Following the medal presentation, Dr. Harold Koopowitz emceed a short "Roast" for Dr. Hasegawa that left all in great humor for the BBQ dinner that followed.

A silent auction was held throughout the day, and proceeds went to the Orchid Digest color fund. The evening was capped off with an incredible 3-D presentation by James Comstock. James showed many images of Paphs, some of which had petals or sepals removed to get a close-up view of the various structures. A final treat was a wonderful 3-D view of the ruins at Machu Picchu in Peru. (Reprinted from the Slipper Orchid Alliance).

Judith Rapacz-Hasler
Karen Muir, SOA Director



Paph. Lola Bird (*emersonii* x *micranthum*)



Best Hybrid: Grammatophyllum
Yuan Nan Tiger