

# September 2009 **The Orchid Grower**

*Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison*



## **Next Meeting September 27, 1:30 p.m.**

### **“Recent Insights Into The Evolution of Orchids”**

**Thomas Givnish, Ph.D., Professor of Botany, UW Madison**

Orchids – with roughly 900 genera and over 25,000 species – are one of the most diverse families of flowering plants, and biologists since Darwin have been fascinated by the tremendous range orchids display in pollination strategies and attendant adaptations. Over the past 15 years, there has been an explosion in what we know about evolutionary relationships among orchids and the adaptive significance of the stunning traits that orchids employ to entice the pollinators. I’ll review several of the recent advances in our understanding of orchid evolution, including the current family tree for the family, case studies of adaptive radiation, the rise of food and sexual mimicry and deceptive pollination, and implications these may have for why there are so many species of orchids.

#### **Meeting Dates**

- September 27—  
Meeting Room
- October 18—Meeting  
Room
- 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

## **Hermann Pigors Presentation at Oak Hill Nursery**

Hermann was philosophical about a number of things. First, the economic times are tough but we will survive. The summer climate in Dundee has not been what would be expected with global warming. This spring was extremely difficult with the rain and floods. At Oak Hill, there have been record cold temperatures.

Hermann said the outside temperature and environment influences the inside of the greenhouses. “This is what we are dealing with and we can’t do anything about it.” He said that



Hermann Pigors at Oak Hill Nursery

the weather explains why the orchids in the greenhouses are behind their usual growing pattern. Sun and warm temperatures are needed for orchid growth. He is glad that President Obama agrees with the need to reduce CO2 in our atmosphere. Next Hermann talked about the Paphiopedilum (Paph.) orchids. At Oak Hill they grow their own seedlings. This means they can sell orchids more competitively

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

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

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Liz Wood and Liz Barlow; below  
Sandy Delamater



since the plants do not need to be imported. For seed germination, they are grown in a highly insulated area with long days and sunshine (light). Under ideal conditions, the resultant plant will bloom in two to three years. In a less ideal situation, the seedling needs six to seven years for growth. The best time for repotting is during the summer or "when they have new growth." Do not disturb the orchid when it is in flower. Fall is not a good time to repot Paph.'s because they do not get enough hour of light or enough warmth to grow.

Militoniopsis (the Pansy Orchid) likes shade, moisture and temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Orchids without pseudo bulbs need more shade and moisture. Phalaenopsis are best to repot after they have stopped blooming.

At Oak Hill they have a cistern filled with rainwater under the greenhouses which they use for watering. Water is best used at room temperature (not ice cold). Fertilization is desirable, but if the plant is overfed the roots can be destroyed. Look for white deposits on the bark media for indication of over-fertilization. If R/O water is used, it needs either a fertilizer such as Dynagrow© (which has 2% calcium and ½% magnesium) or Michigan

State University (MSU) fertilizer (which supplies 7% calcium). Hermann concluded his talk advising eighteen members of OGG, *"if something you are doing works well,*

We thank Oak Hill for the words of wisdom, an excellent lunch and the chance to do some shopping.

Photographs by Judy Stevenson

...from our new head judge for OQ 2010:

"Hi everyone from the Madison Orchid Society. It was so wonderful to get your GET WELL card with all the members signatures. It is so heart warming to know that there are that many people out there that would take the time to care about me. I very much appreciate the thoughts. Thank you all, Bob Lewis

## July Field Trip in search of the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)

Gary and Penny Shackelford graciously invited OGG to “Fair Meadows,” their property in Rock County, to view the eastern prairie fringed orchid, a federally endangered orchid. The idea of restoring land to a prairie came to them while living in St. Louis, Missouri. Penny had grown up in this region of Wisconsin and it was pleasing to both of them. In 1985, they purchased 180 acres and five years later they purchased an additional 200 acres. They thought working on this property would give them



Photograph by Sue Reed  
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid  
(*Platanthera leucophaea*)



Photograph by Judy Stevenson  
OGG President Rich Narf presenting donation to  
Peter and Penny Shackelford

something to do in their retirement. They both wanted a place to hike, study, take photographs and learn about nature. Their goal was “to restore Fair Meadows to pre-European settlement conditions.” What they did not count on was how much work it would be to return apple orchards, cornfields and grazing land to prairie.

They sought the counsel of the Department of Natural Resources who pointed out invasive species such as buckthorn, reed canary grass, garlic mustard, barberry, and shrub honeysuckles which needed to be controlled. Gary and Penny have also worked with wetland, fish and prairie consultants, wildlife foresters, and botanists to realize their dream. Slowly they have been tackling the invasive species and harvesting timber. (Gary hand-pulled several sweet alfalfa plants during our hike.) From 1990 - 1994, they hand planted the first prairie. They have made subsequent plantings in other areas.



Photograph by Judy Stevenson  
OGG gathered for synopsis of their walk

Restoring prairie requires field preparation and seed. The cost of restoring “Fair Meadows” to prairie is \$1000 per acre. In Penny’s words, “in the fall we mow/chop the new section to become prairie which removes the brush. The seeding is usually done in the fall, after a season of spraying with herbicide to kill the existing plants. Sometimes, you can just plant into an established old field (without herbicide) if it doesn’t have too many weeds. Then the following

spring and summer you usually mow two or three times to cut the seed heads off the annual and biennial weeds (to prevent seeding and to give some light to the tiny little prairie plants). Usually, you have to mow again the second year because there are not enough grasses yet to carry a fire. Starting the third year, you burn in the spring to set back any remaining non-natives, espe-

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cially cool-season grasses and to encourage growth and germination of the native plants. Usually, you burn again in year four and maybe five. Then you can start burning every five or six years. However, if you have a problem with buckthorn or multiflora rose, for example, you may have to continue burning every two to three years.”



Photographs by Sue Reed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*: butterfly milkweed, butterfly-weed, orange milkweed; below Sand Hill crane



The Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (EPFO) was first found in a meadow that had been a corn field before growing hay. Its habitat is a moist prairie. In the spring, the water is slightly above ground. In late July the water table is between 18” – 30” below the surface. Three EPFO were found in 1999. Subsequently they found 218 plants in 2007, 94 plants in 2008 and 56 plants in 2009. (In June 2008, there was major flooding and any orchids submerged more than two weeks were lost.)

The orchids usually start to bloom the second week of July. The flowers start blooming from the bottom and go up, staying in bloom about the ten days. They emit a scent from the bottom of the spur which attracts the sphinx moth that pollinates

it. The EPFO usually bloom for about two to three years. To protect the orchids from the deer, they place a wide mesh fencing (approximately 18 to 24 inches across) around each orchid. Lastly, each orchid receives a colored flag marking its spot. A different color flag is used to monitor separate years. The EPFO grows up among the big blue stem. This orchid is a sun loving plant that likes to be above the other living plants around it. Gary is maintaining an annual log as to the number and location of the EPFO.

The tour of the Shackelford’s property also turned out to be an ornithologist’s delight. Very unexpectedly we saw white pelicans flying over head, sand hill cranes, sedge wrens, barn swallows, yellow throated warblers and an osprey.



Photograph by Sue Reed  
Sedge Wren

Thank you!

July 24

Thank you so much for your donation in memory of my dad, Albert Haller, to our prairie restoration. The beautiful Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchids are here because of his hard work to start the restoration of Fair Meadows. We are so glad you were here to help us celebrate the annual "rebirth" of these wonderful plants.

Penny Shackelford

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Photograph by Sue Reed  
A squadron of Pelicans

The Shackelfords have decided to donate Fair Meadows to the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin. Furthermore, they set up an endowment (secure and permanent fund) with the Natural Resources Foundation to manage the property after they are gone.

Taking the two hour tour of their property to see this endangered orchid and to take in the marvel of the other prairie plants as well as birds was **OUTSTANDING**.

**Thank you Shackelfords!!**

### ***SPECIAL NOTE OF INTEREST***

Gary is an avid wildlife photographer. You may see his photography displayed at the Arboretum in September and October. Find a photo gallery of Fair Meadows by Gary Shackelford at [www.wisconservation.org](http://www.wisconservation.org)

### **FALL MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS**

The Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee is one of the eight founding societies of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, founded in October, 1959 – 50 years ago. They are hosting the fall 2009 50th Anniversary Mid-America Orchid Congress show and sale. The show will be held at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel & Convention Center in Franklin, TN on October 30 – November 1, 2009.

The MAOC Affiliated Societies Breakfast will be held in conjunction with the Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress on November 1. The topic of discussion will be “Creative Approaches to Local Orchid Shows.” Local societies are dependent on a successful annual show to promote the local society and to recruit new members.

For more information contact Steve Burger, 9651 Fredonia Rd., Manchester TN 37355 Phone: 931-394-2713 Email: [gandsgh@blomand.net](mailto:gandsgh@blomand.net)

## **Wisconsin Orchid Society Show**

Dear Fellow Orchid Lover:

The Wisconsin Orchid Society and the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture invite you to participate in the 2009 Show and Sale, “**Fall in Love with Orchids, 2009**”, to be held the weekend of September 19 and 20, 2009, in the Show Dome of the Mitchell Park Conservatory, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Show will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Setup is on Friday from noon until 10 p.m., with registration of plants and exhibits from noon until 7 p.m. There will be a supper buffet in the Hospitality Room at 6 p.m. Friday for all participants, and comestibles will be available for you throughout the weekend.



From Bolz Conservatory, *Promenaea xanthina*

# OQ Opportunities for 2010

Despite the poor economy last February, the hard work of all our volunteers paid off, leaving the OQ budget in the black. In 2010, we may have to work even harder to ensure another successful Orchid Quest.

Here is a listing of volunteer opportunities. Many coordinator positions are filled. Judith Rapacz (my co-chair) is recommending that all coordinators have a **BUDDY**. This would free up members of OGG to sit in on the lectures during OQ. I will be contacting all of you without an assignment to find which of the jobs interests you most. Our strength in OGG is our membership working together to host the 24<sup>th</sup> annual orchid show.

**We are still looking for a corporate sponsor.** We are more apt to get a sponsor if they have a relationship with someone who is an OGG member. **Please call me (231-3163) if you know a business or someone who might consider being a sponsor.**

## **Correspondence, Judith Rapacz**

- Send invitations to potential judges
- Send invitations to potential vendors
- Send invitations to Orchid Societies
- Keep log of responses

## **Raffle Chairs, Lorraine Snyder and Joan Smalley**

- Determine how the raffle will be run.
- Obtain permit from the State
- Obtain raffle tickets
- Obtain prizes from OGG members
- Obtain prizes from vendors
- Maintain staffing during OQ
- Arrange for ticket drum rental
- Organize the selection of winners
- Supervise the distribution of prizes
- *Responsible for the smooth operation of the raffle*

## **Gifts and Awards, Jill Hynum, Meg McLaughlin and Sarah Lundey**

- Gifts for judges
- Awards for show winners
- Ribbon inventory

## **OGG Exhibit Coordinator, Gary Brendemuehl, Sue Reed and Amy Ripp**

- Develop theme for the display
- Arrange for props, as needed
- Arrange for supplies to be conveyed from and back to storage locker

- Recruit volunteers to assist in set-up and take-down

## **Catering Coordinator, Rich Narf**

- Determine menu and order meal for judges' luncheon
- Order food for hospitality room and keep it replenished

## **Programs, Judy Stevenson and Judith Rapacz**

- Contact potential speakers and obtain biography
- Help create Show Book and the Program
- Introduce speakers and keep program on track
- Send "Thank you" notes to speakers

## **Publicity, Judy Stevenson**

- Contact and work with newspapers, television and radio stations
- Recruit sponsors (Corporate and Nursery)
- Send "Thank-you" notes (e-mail is OK)

## **Graphics and Poster Design, Denise Baylis**

- Create an eye-catching color as well as a black and white poster. Have ready by September for WEB page & community personnel
- Design flyers for OQ and have enough printed for distribution by OGG at November meeting
- Design tickets and arrange for printing

## **Plant Registration Coordinator, Elaine Gadzicki**

- Send out plant registration forms to Vendors and Societies

## Programs for OGG 2009 - 2010

Meeting Date	Presentation
September 27, 2009 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b>Recent Insights Into The Evolution of Orchids</b> Thomas Givnish, Ph.D., Henry Allan Gleason Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies, UW Madison
October 18, 2009 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b>Happy Birthday Charles! Darwin's Legacy as a 200 Year Old Orchid Enthusiast</b> Ken Cameron, Associate Professor of Botany and Director Wisconsin State Herbarium, UW Madison
November 15, 2009 Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery	<b>Orchid Diseases and Plant Hygiene</b> Chuck Acker
December 20, 2009 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b>TBA</b> Ernie Gemeinhart <b>Annual Holiday Potluck</b>
January 17, 2010 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b>Overview of Orchid Quest</b> Judith Rapacz and Judy Stevenson
February 21, 2010 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b>Orchidarium Orchid Growing</b> Steven Thimling <b>Orchid Quest Debriefing</b> OGG membership
March 21, 2010	<b>Auction</b> – OGG members bring in plants
April 3, 2010 Olbrich 10 am–2:30	<b>Spring Orchid Sale</b> OGG membership
April 19, 2009 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b><i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> – Native Orchid</b> Scott Weber
May 16, 2009 Meeting Room Olbrich	<b>TBA</b>
June TBA	<b>Annual OGG Picnic</b>
July Field Trip TBA	<b>Field Trip in search of the Yellow Lady Slipper "Orchids"</b>



*Phalaenopsis parishii*

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- Arrange for computers and printer
- Train registrars
- Print out plant labels

### **Plant Check Coordinator, Jeri Gjertson and Dawn Weckler**

- Arrange for supplies (check-tickets, tape, boxes, plastic bags, etc.)
- Maintain staffing during OQ

### **OGG Sales Table Coordinator**

- Co-ordinate staffing during OQ
- Sell OGG memberships/pins/shirts/pots
- Distribute care sheets. Answer questions
- Give information out about orchid alliances
- *Responsible for security of monies collected*

### **Clerking Coordinator, Liz Barlow**

- Work with the Head Judge Bob Lewis
- Responsible for clerking supplies

### **Ticket Sales Coordinator, Audrey Lucier and Irene Mackie**

- Set up the Sales Table on Friday
- Assist OGG members selling tickets
- Responsible for security of monies collected

### **AOS Photographer, Scott Weber**

- Take photographs of plants selected for AOS awards
- Complete appropriate paperwork and forward to AOS

July 16, 2009

Orchid Growers Guild  
PO Box 5432  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Audrey:

Thank you for your donation which will help us preserve the native orchids in our sanctuary!

Your generous tax-deductible gift of \$300.00 received on 7/1/2009 helps further the mission of The Ridges Sanctuary: "to protect the Sanctuary and inspire stewardship of natural areas through programs of education, outreach and research".

On behalf of your fellow members and 72 years of membership support, please know how much your support is appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on the trail!

Sincerely,



Marc Demoly, Communication & Technology

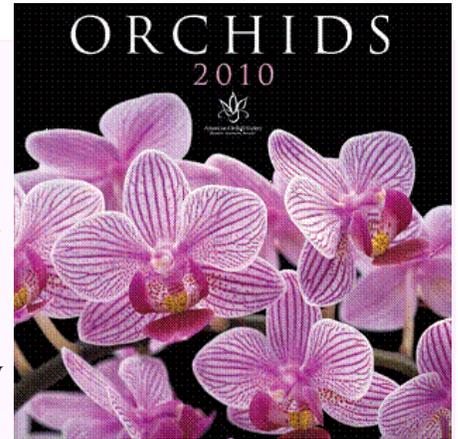
The Ridges Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) organization. As required by the IRS, The Ridges Sanctuary acknowledges that you have not received any goods or services as a result of your donation. Please retain this receipt for your 2009 tax records. Federal Tax ID # 39-1044657.

[www.RidgesSanctuary.org](http://www.RidgesSanctuary.org)

## *Growing the Best*

Share the magic and joy of growing orchids with a gift of the AOS 2010 Calendar. The 12 superbly grown orchids pictured show the diversity in color, size, shape and fragrance found in the orchid family. Join author Ken Slump as he shares secrets for growing the best orchids and then offers advice for successfully cultivating and flowering a dozen choices suitable for the greenhouse, home and under lights.

\$2 from each calendar sold benefits orchid conservation  
**\$12.95** plus shipping and handling  
Order No. CL919M



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## Up-Coming Events

- **September 19 – 20, 2009. Wisconsin Orchid Society Show.**  
Show Dome of the Mitchell Park Conservatory, Milwaukee
- **September 25-27, 2009. Chicagoland Orchid Festival**
- **October 10 – 11, 2009. Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show.**  
Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL.  
Contact: Jean Becker, 901 Sunset Ct., Deerfield, IL 60015;  
847) 945-0107; [beckerjeanne@hotmail.com](mailto:beckerjeanne@hotmail.com).
- **October 30 – November 1, 2009. Fall Mid-American Orchid Congress**  
Sponsored by the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee; Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel & Convention Center in Franklin, TN  
Contact: Steve Burger, 9651 Fredonia Rd., Manchester TN 37355 Phone: 931-394-2713, [gandsgh@blomand.net](mailto:gandsgh@blomand.net)
- **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](mailto:davidbluma@aol.com)
- **September 18 – 19, 2010. Wisconsin Orchid Society Show.**  
Milwaukee WI