

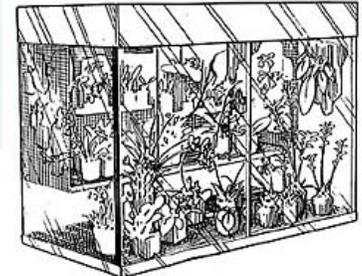
February 2010 The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website orchidguild.org



NEXT MEETING February 21
“Orchidarium Orchid Growing,”
Steve Thimling



Commercially available orchidarium

The 24th Orchid Quest is Almost Here! February 6 and 7

This year will be the 24th Orchid Quest that the Orchid Growers' Guild will host, and it is one of the largest orchid shows in the Midwest. Although planning occurs all year, it begins in earnest in September when the American Orchid Society (AOS), judges, societies and vendors are contacted. There are many tasks that need to be done or organized before the start of the show: poster and bookmark design, updating and sending out the Show Book, contacting potential speakers for the seminars, Program preparation, advertising and media contact, creating an awards list and acquiring the awards, solicitation of raffle and silent auction contributions and the coordination and assignment of space for exhibits and vendors, to list just a few.

The day before the show the registration team will register hundreds of plants and artwork from societies, vendors and individual artists while OGG teams will set up our exhibit, put the finishing touches on the venue; and assist societies and vendors unload their prized orchids. Finally, early Saturday morning judging and clerking teams will assemble for judging, ribbons and awards determined and distributed, pictures taken to provide documentation of awarded plants to be registered with AOS, as well as photographs of all of the exhibits, and the list goes on.

When we all work together, the end result is a show that we all will be proud of. This may be the most diverse Orchid Quest ever. We have three new vendors and six quilters who will be exhibiting their fabric art. A new addition

(Continued on page 2)

Sponsored by



Meeting Dates

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
 November TBA
 December 19-Meeting Room

Meetings start at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Officers and Committees

President:

Rich Narf (2010)
znarf@dishmail.net

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2011)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Annette Minter/Lorraine Snyder

Treasurer:

Audrey Lucier
audl@aol.com

Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

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Steve Thimling (2010)
orchidbird@charter.net

Irene Mackie (2012)
Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com

Away Shows:
Open

Hospitality:
Pat Narf

Librarian:
Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Membership:
Board of Directors

Newsletter:
Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest:
Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net
Judith Rapacz
jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu

Programs:
Judy Stevenson

Ribbon Judging:
Nicole Amass
Jody Thistle

Web Master:
Gary Brendemuehl
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Liaisons:

Alliant: Judy Stevenson
AOS: Jill Hynum
MAOC: Wayne King, Judith Rapacz
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum

ERRATA

January article "OGG Award Winners for 2009" under grower of the year should have indicated that "All plant scores are doubled for a plant awarded at AOS judged shows etc."

The new embroidery design on the shirts is a *Cypripedium*.

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this year is paintings by area artists such as Tamlyn Atkins, Prof. Helen Klebesadel, Anne Klein, Janet Moore and Cynthia Quinn. Some of their work will be for sale after the judging is completed on Saturday morning. Ten societies, as well as all vendors will be setting up displays in the Mendota Room, bringing the total number of exhibits to fifty.

In the dead of a Wisconsin winter, why would anyone want to hibernate at home? Tell your family and friends to come out to OQ this weekend to enjoy the magnificent orchid displays and interesting talks. Thanks to everyone for making Orchid Quest happen.

Judy and Judith, Co-Show Chairs

Not Quite a Miracle Recovery

When Michael Oosten spoke to OGG a few months ago he mentioned that some of his orchid collection was tossed in a dumpster by the person who purchased his house. One of his prized cattleyas was really banged up and not doing too well. Now it seems to have recovered and while Michael reports that it's not up to its usual performance it is putting on quite a show right now as well as being wonderfully fragrant.



Orchid Quest Program Schedule

Saturday, February 6

- 11:30 AM "Orchid Conservation in China's Yachang Nature Reserve"
Ken Cameron, PhD., Director of the Wisconsin State Herbarium, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 1:00 PM "How to get more orchid flowers to last longer on your plants in the home and greenhouse"
Hermann Pigors -- Oak Hill Gardens, Dundee, IL
- 2:30 PM "Raves for Ridges"
Nile Dusdieker -- Eastern Iowa Orchid Society, Iowa City, Iowa

Sunday, February 7

- 11:30 AM "Growing Miniature Orchids in your Home"
Sue Reed - Orchid Growers' Guild, Madison, WI
- 12:15 PM "*Mexipedium xerophyticum* - Tips for growing this beautiful and bizarre Lady Slipper"
Heidi Whetmore - Orchid Growers' Guild, Madison, WI
- 1:00 PM "Orchids of Colombia"
Rafael Arevalo - University of Wisconsin -Madison

OGG Ribbon Judging January 2010

First Place

Gary Brendemuehl
 Gary Brendemuehl
 Irene Mackie
 Meg McLaughlin
 Meg McLaughlin
 Meg McLaughlin
 Lorraine Snyder
 Heidi Whetmore
 Heidi Whetmore
 Lynn West
 Lynn West
 Nicole Amass

Nicole Amass

Paphiopedilum Berenice (lowii x philippinense)
 Phrag caudatum var. sunderie
 Dendrobium Andree Millar atroviolaceum x convolutum
Paphiopedilum spicerianum (“#2” x Store Lovely ‘Ching Hua #4’)
 Dendrobium bigibbum x Dendrobium Music Beauty #19
 Bc Maikai ‘Mayumi’
 Paphiopedilum Redezelle x fairrieianum ‘Super Red’ AM/AOS
Cochleanthes amazonica
Encyclia cochleata
 Pink Phal - unknown
Rhynchostylis gigantea var alba
 Sophrolaeliocattleya Aloha Apricot ‘Waunakee’*
 Paphiopedilum (Gilbert Blytha x Alma Bavaert) x Philippinense var. album ‘Charming’

Second Place

Jeff Baylis
 Meg McLaughlin

 Meg McLaughlin

 Nicole Amass

 Jeff Baylis

 Nicole Amass

Cochleanthes amazonica
 Phrag Cape Sunset (Eric Young x schlimii)
 Phrag Mountain Maid (besseae x hirtzii)
 Paphiopedilum Hsinying Raisin CH#6 x Paph acmodontum Hsinying
 Paphiopedilum ‘Wonder Isle’ x Paph ‘Yerba Buena’
 Paphiopedilum Happy Hill x Paphiopedilum gratixianum



Above Dendrobium bigibbum x Dendrobium Music Beauty #19 grown by Meg McLaughlin

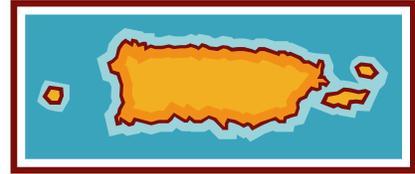


Photographs by Rich Narf

Top Phrag Mountain Maid (besseae x hirtzii) grown by Meg McLaughlin; Above Phrag Cape Sunset (Eric Young x schlimii) grown by Meg McLaughlin; at left *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* (“#2” x Store Lovely ‘Ching Hua #4’) grown by Meg McLaughlin

PUERTO RICO ORCHID HUNTERS

Denise Baylis, Photographs by Jeff Baylis



Jeff and I enjoy traveling to interesting places to observe plants (especially orchids and carnivorous plants) and wildlife in their native habitat. So when like-minded friends suggested a trip to Puerto Rico we decided to go along with them.



Bletia patula

After doing a little research prior to departure we discovered that most of the endemic animals have been decimated over the past four hundred years or so and that orchids were rare as well, as the island has been largely deforested. However plants and birds introduced from Southeast Asia and Australia are doing quite well! On our first day we stopped at an overlook to admire the view and discovered numerous blooming *Bletia patula*, a rather showy terrestrial orchid, hiding in the grass along the road. An optimistic beginning. The first place we stayed was up in the mountains. Despite questioning locals and initiating a dedicated search, *nada*. A charming gentleman we met who had returned to

Puerto Rico to retire told us that local people collect the showy orchids they find and place them in their own gardens to admire.

Perhaps we would have better luck in one of the national parks. We were there in the fall rainy season which is good for the orchids but hard on the tourists. We hiked through Parque Rio Toro Negro along a stream in a steady rain. Between the lush foliage and the rain-darkened skies we were unable to spot any blooming orchids, although we did find non-blooming plants and a great many tiny tree frogs..



Spathoglottis plicata



Epidendrum nocturnum

We planned to spend a few days at El Junque, a famous rain forest park in the northeast corner of the island and a must-see destination for visitors to Puerto Rico. Right there in the visitor center in the flower beds were blooming *Spathoglottis plicata* (a terrestrial orchid from Southeast Asia). We were to find it as a common feral plant throughout the park. There were exotic *Phalaenopsis* wired on to concrete pillars in the courtyard of the visitor center as well. Many were in bloom but like the orchid in the flower bed, but not an endemic orchid was to be seen.

We spent three afternoons hiking around El Junque. The first afternoon Jeff spotted a bloom-



Upper left is *Polystachya concreta*; upper right is *Epidendrum boricuarum*

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ing *Epidendrum nocturnum*, our first native species blooming since the Bletia. It was conveniently growing at eye level next to the path. This species has a huge range that runs from Florida to Bolivia. Further along the trail was a pigmy forest and more blooming orchids were spotted, none showy. The largest was *Epidendrum boricuarum*, a white flowered fleshy species. Over the next two days we did locate a few more orchids, most small epidendrums. But at the funky hotel where we stayed, Jeff found numerous *Polystachya concreta* orchids growing and blooming on many of the trees around the grounds. This species also has a huge range which includes Africa and Florida.

I wonder what the orchids in Puerto Rico would have been like before the advent of logging and of the orchid hunters?



Epidendrum jamaicense

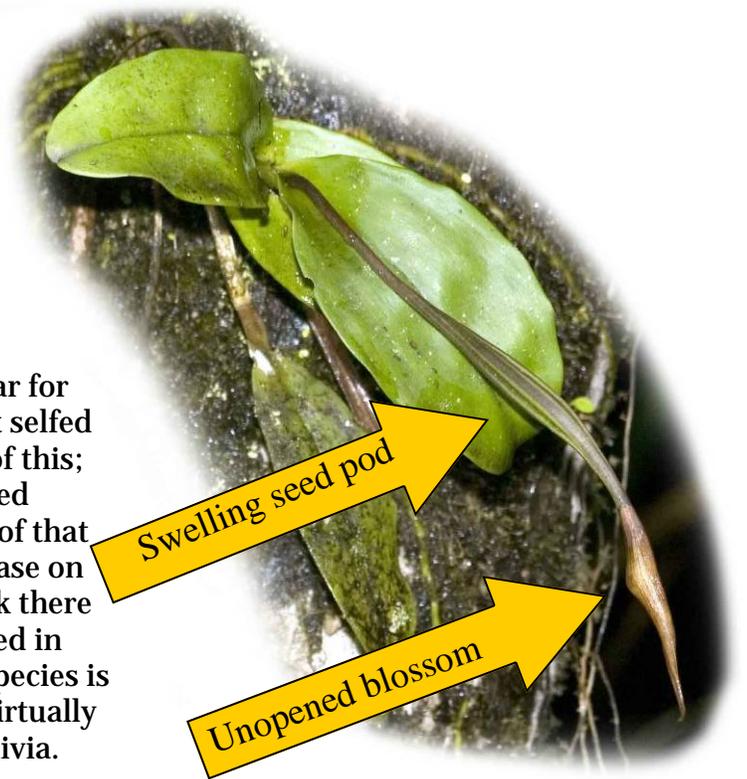


Epidendrum ramosum

SELF FERTILIZATION

Jeff Baylis

One of the high points of our hike on El Junque was observing an *Epidendrum nocturnum* that had clearly self-pollinated. This species is known to be prone to this mode of fertilization, and I have a plant in my collection that often self-pollinates the first flower it produces each year. I find this frustrating, as here you are waiting a year for the next bloom and it never opens because it selfed first! On our hike we observed an example of this; an *Epidendrum nocturnum* with an unopened flower still attached to a swelling ovary. Proof that the selfing happens in the wild, and in this case on the first and only bloom on the plant. I think there is a thesis project here for a student interested in plant mating systems, especially since this species is obviously good at colonizing; it is found in virtually every country and island from Florida to Bolivia.



Volunteers Needed

Put your creative skills to work. Volunteers are needed to set up and/or take down OGG exhibits for the NEOS show which is March 13 - 14th in Neenah and for the Ilowa Orchid Society Spring show March 27-28, 2010. Transportation expenses will be reimbursed. Contact Judy Stevenson.

You know you are addicted to orchids when ...

... the first thing you do in Home Depot or Trader Joe's is to see if they have any interesting new orchids, and if they do you get one instead of the item you went there to buy.

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 19-21, 2010.** Mid-American Orchid Congress Spring Meeting, held in conjunction with Greater Omaha Orchid Society's 23rd Annual Orchid Show, Omaha Marriott, Omaha NE
- **March 20-21, 2010.** Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- **July 31st, 2010.** Picnic at Oak Hill Gardens
- **November 14-23, 2011.** 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore