

May 2010 The Orchid Grower



Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website orchidguild.org

NEXT MEETING MAY 16th

Election of officers and auction.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our thanks to Scott Weber for a fine presentation on the variation of the native Yellow Lady Slipper. (See story page 2)

This fall will be the OGG 25th Anniversary. We were incorporated in 1985. We should have a Celebration!!! Please submit to me any ideas that you might have for this occasion. We will form a committee and have this celebration this fall.



Photograph by Scott Weber
Sauk County plants with two color forms side-by-side

May is the annual business meeting. There will be the election of officers followed by an auction. Persons, to date, who have thrown their hat in the ring for elections are: Rich Narf/President; Audrey Lucier/Treasurer; Gary Brendemuehl/Director. Others are still able to place their names in nomination by contacting a member of the nomination committee (Jill Hynum, Judy Stevenson or Wayne King) or from the floor at the May business meeting. The following have offered to take the chair/co-chair non-elected positions: Judith Rapacz

and Judy Stevenson - programs; Pat Narf - hospitality; AWAY SHOWS - we still need a chair!

After the election of officers there will be an auction. Set aside and bring orchid plants and/or growing paraphernalia you are no

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Meeting Dates

May 16-Meeting Room
June 13—Picnic
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

Steve Thimling (2010)
orchidbird@charter.net

Irene Mackie (2012)
irenepeacemak-er2004@yahoo.com

Away Shows:

Open

Hospitality:

Pat Narf

Librarian:

Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

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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

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longer using (but is still usable). We would like all sales to go to OGG, but you will be able to set a percentage and/or minimum bid.

June is the annual OGG picnic. This year it will be held June 13th at the Narf residence (about half way between Oregon, Stoughton and McFarland). That location should confuse you! Closer to the time of the picnic I'll send out a map and additional information.

Food - Narfs will provide brats, chicken and soft drinks. You should bring a dish to pass, additional drinks (as desired) and chairs. Further updates to follow.

Best – Rich

SPRING ORCHID SALE RESULTS

Treasurer Audrey Lucier reported that the sale was a success! This year we sold all the orchids but two supplied by Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery. After expenses, OGG netted \$1265.90.

Synopsis of Scott Weber's presentation "Propagation, Ecology and Taxonomy of Yellow Lady Slippers: *Cypripedium parviflorum*"

Photographs by Scott Weber

OGG member Scott Weber and his wife Muffy run Blue-stem Farm, specializing in raising native plants and seeds for use in prairie restoration projects. Scott lectures on native orchids and prairie restoration.

The classification of this native yellow lady's slipper has not been settled. Historically it was considered to be the same species as the Eurasian yellow lady's slipper, *Cypripedium calceolus*. Currently, the trend has been to separate North American plants from Eurasian but the number of North American species is still debated. Some botanists recognize two species in our area: *Cypripedium parviflorum* and *Cypripedium pubescens*. The USDA website differentiates the two: ***C. parviflorum* var. *parviflorum*: Lesser yellow lady's slipper** (Syn: *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum*) and ***C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*: Greater yellow lady's slipper** (Syn: *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens*, *Cypripedium pubescens*).

The yellow lady's slipper grows in a variety of habitats. The upland populations have larger flowers while fen popula-



Woodland-grown parent on left, nursery-grown offspring on right. Light intensity may affect color and degree of red speckling.

FLORIDA BIRD-WATCHING AND ORCHID SPOTTING

Pat and I headed south to Florida last February for our first major vacation in over ten years. Little did we know that all of the northern cold air was trapped in the trunk of our car waiting to be liberated when we arrived. Our itinerary was: Orlando, Titusville, Sarasota, Fort Myers, Naples, Homestead, Daytona Beach, Charleston, and Winston-Salem.



Encyclia tempensis, possibly freeze damage

The trip did have a purpose - not orchids, but photographing the many birds common only to the far south of Florida. Nevertheless we were still going to have some fun before I morphed into “that serious photographer!” Our first morning in Orlando was cold, not flip-flops and shorts weather. Some of the natives were in their winter coats! We spent the day at the ‘House of the Mouse’ mumbling about how things have changed since our last visit to Epcot. One day was enough for us so we spent two days commuting to Titusville/Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge before moving to Titusville for our planned two-night stay. Our last night at Orlando was a very entertaining evening at Cirque du Soleil. I can’t recommend this program highly enough.



Encyclia tempensis

The rest of the trip centered on birds - birds - and more birds: all 3,468 photos. Some of them with the assistance of Judith and Jan Rapacz (Sanibel Island and Ding Darling Refuge); Pat’s aunt and uncle (North Fort Myers) and Pat’s brother (Sarasota).

Orchids - where are the orchids? Well I did look over nearly every tree. It is hard not to look for orchids and birds when they are in the same habitat. I found the birds; but not the orchids until I left the Visitors Center at Ding Darling Refuge. Outside the door in the adjacent trees were several *Encyclia tempensis* and one spent flower spike. The next location was at Mahogany Hammock in the Everglades. I observed several groups of bulbs among the epiphytes. You will note that the photos show some of them to be quite dried up as this was near the end of the ‘dry’ season.

I am not disappointed in not seeing many wild orchids since that was not the primary reason for the trip and we were not there at the best time/season for the orchids to be blooming. I did stop at R.F. Orchids in Homestead and brought back three very nice blooming or budded plants. Now I just have to get them to bloom again!

—Rich Narf

You know you are addicted to orchids...

... when you drive a thousand miles to take a picture of a dried-up *Encyclia tempensis*

OGG RIBBON JUDGING APRIL 2010

First Place

Dennis Pfarrer	Blc Ports of Paradise
Dennis Pfarrer	Dtps Chain Xen Pearl 'Ming Ho'
Lorraine Snyder	Phal I-Hsin Amy
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph hirsutissimum</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Pleurothallis grobyi</i>
Steve Thimling	Vandofinetia blaupunkt
Steve Thimling	<i>Lycaste aromatica</i>

Second Place

Dennis Pfarrer	Pot. Susan Fender 'Cinnamon Stick'
Sandy Delamater	Paph Frank Smith (Paph Norito Hasegawa x Paph rothschildianum 'Crystelle')
Sandy Delamater	<i>Psychopsis papilio</i>
Steve Thimling	Milt. Arnold Linsman 'Hot & Spicy'
Steve Thimling	<i>Renanthera monachica</i>
Steve Thimling	<i>Leptotes bicolor</i>

Third Place

Dennis Pfarrer	Slc Love Castle 'Kurenai'
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Paph hirsutissimum</i>
Richard Miller	<i>Paph delenatii</i>
Richard Miller	Hwra Lava Burst 'Puanani'



Pleurothallis grobyi grown by Sandy Delamater; below Pot. Susan Fender 'Cinnamon Stick' grown by Dennis Pfarrer



Lorraine Snyder speaking to Steve Thimling about his *Lycaste aromatica*

Photographs by Denise Baylis



Native Orchid Conference 2010, June 12-15

University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

"Native Orchid Conservation: Making a Difference"

For further information, please contact:
Ben Rostron: email: Ben.Rostron @ Ualberta.ca



Native Orchids from Scott Weber

Scott attended the Native Orchid Conference when it was held in Green Bay last year. He has shared with us some photographs he has taken of orchids he saw on field trips associated with the conference: Carney Fen in Michigan and the Ridges in Door County. Scott and Muffy are giving farm tours/wildflower walks this year on the following Sundays at 10:30 a.m.:

May 2nd—Look for the first spring flowers

Mary 16th—Big spring display: yellow lady's slippers, shooting stars, apple blossoms and many other

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Arethusa bulbosa



Corallorhiza striata



Corallorhiza trifida



Cypripedium acaule



Cypripedium arietinum



Cypripedium parviflorum



Goodyera pubescens



Listera cordata



Spiranthes cernua



Spiranthes lacera



Spiranthes romanzoffiana
(Door County)

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flowers

May 30th—Trek around the farm

June 13th—Showy ladyslippers will probably be in bloom along with lots of other plants. Nursery beds or prairie tour

June 27th—Wood lilies should be at their peak

July 4th—Wet meadow tour

July 18th—Prairie yellows and wet meadow purples

For more information see the Blue-stem Farm website at <http://www.bluestemfarm.com/> or email Scott at bluestemfarm@junco.com.



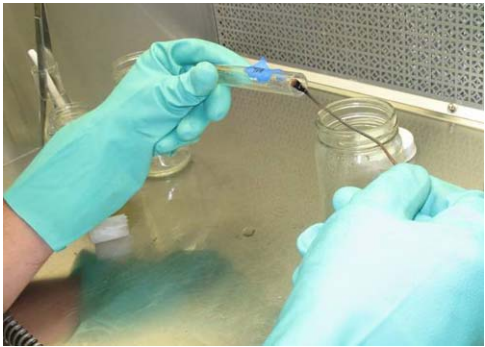
Goodyera repens (Door County)

Up-Coming Events

- **July 31st, 2010.** Picnic at Oak Hill Gardens
- **September 18-19,** Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee
- **September 24-26,** Eighteenth Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest
- **September 24-26,** Fall MAOC meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Orchid Show, Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY
- **October 9-10,** Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Chicago IL
- **November 14-23, 2011.** 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore



Disinfecting green seed pod



Transferring seed to pint jar



Healthy *C. parviflorum* seedlings



C. parviflorum seedlings second summer

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tions have smaller ones. At the time of settlement, Southern Wisconsin consisted of prairies and oak savannahs with trees on the ridge tops. Our populations of lady slippers were not geographically isolated from each other before modern land uses. Invasive species (garlic mustard), loss of habitat (farming and urban sprawl), pollution, lack of large predators (thus a booming population of hungry deer) and exclusion of natural processes, including fire, have dramatically changed our forests, savannas and prairies. It is known that *Cypripedium parviflorum* naturally hybridizes with *Cypripedium candidum*. With the orchid populations now geographically isolated, *Cypripedium* diversity no longer appears to be on a continuum, but distinct species rather than populations.

Any conservation program must include habitat protection, propagation and reintroduction of rare or declining species. Saving genetic diversity is perhaps the most important but least understood conservation issue. Scott propagates native species, including cypripedium to this end. He explained some of the techniques he uses for propagation of this orchid from seed. Pesticide-free, home grown potatoes are essential for media (50 ml potato extract per liter of water.) Pint Mason jars, easy to keep clean with one piece lids, are sturdy and provide enough air space for several months' growth. Many native orchid genera can be cultured on the same salt medium by changing the amino acid strength and/or substituting banana for potato. The same germination medium can be used for all genera since seeds can germinate with low nutrient solutions. Some species, such as *Platanthera leucophaea*, require a very low nitrogen concentration (.5 ml/L). Cypripediums can be cultured in the dark for a couple of months but benefit from low light after the shoot has developed. If they are kept in the dark until deflasking, the shoots may become etiolated and fragile. If the shoots develop chlorophyll in the flask, the survival rate is best. After three or four years, the plants are ready to go out on their own.

Because Scott artificially fertilizes his plants to obtain seed, he can keep track of the offspring of known crosses. His data show that self pollination results in very low fertility. His data on the offspring reared from single pods show that there is enormous range in the characteristics of the offspring from a single cross, and that growing habitat and factors such as sun exposure also have a large effect on adult flower characteristics. These effects are substantial enough that he can show almost as much variation in the offspring in a single

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seed pod as one sees between the descriptions of the Greater yellow lady's slipper and the Lesser yellow lady's slipper.

His conclusions:

1. DNA evidence is needed to separate varieties; size and color are too subjective.
2. Flower size is influenced by genetics, habitat, nutrition, and age of the plant.
3. Hybridization with *C. candidum* may influence size and habitat preference.
4. Yellow lady's slippers are highly variable and will continue to confuse and delight us.

Synopsis of Report from the MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS (MAOC)

The Spring MAOC was held in March in Omaha, Nebraska, in conjunction with The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show at the Lauritzen Gardens (Botanical Garden).

Attendance was lower than usual in part that it coincided with the Batavia Show. The lectures featured Carson Whitlow's "The World of Cypripediums;" Scott Stewart, PhD. who discussed the past, present and future of orchid conservation; Ernie Gemeinhart who encouraged light gardeners with practical tips on growing orchids under lights; and Doug Watson walked us through the history of the Congress.

On Saturday morning we visited the Orchid Show at the Lauritzen Gardens. There were 15 exhibits and 288 entries. Some amazing plants - the judges identified 7 out of 29 orchids for awards. At The Affiliated Societies' Breakfast, 33 people discussed "Conservation Efforts by Local Societies."

ACTIONS TAKEN BY MAOC:

- Conservation Committee awarded \$1200 in grants in Fall 2009. \$400 grants were awarded to McNeeley Conservatory (St. Paul MN), Wheeler Collection(Ball State University) & Cleveland Botanical Garden.
- MAOC donated \$4000 to AOS in 2009.
- New Appointments: Beth Martin, Chair of Annual Meeting Committee; Tim Brooks, Chair of Orchidist of the Year Committee.

Saturday night's auction raised \$2,083.

CONSERVATION OF PERSONAL ORCHID COLLECTIONS

KEY:

- Step 1: PLAN
- Step 2: DOCUMENT PLAN
- Step 3: APPOINT person to execute plan.

- Time is paramount. Do not delay in executing plans – your orchids cannot wait
- Plan for natural disasters as well as the inability to care for orchids due to poor health or death
- Keep a list of orchids in collection. Estimate value
- Members of local society may assist in selling/distributing orchids
- Donate orchids to college or botanical garden -- contact first to confirm institution's desire to acquire your orchids
- Sell "select" orchids through judging center
- Sell orchids to society members, returning money to family or to society for specific purpose: speakers fund, etc
- Sell or will orchids to commercial vendor
- Post on Orchid Mall
- Divide plants and distribute to members of society