

January 2011 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



NEXT MEETING JANUARY 16, 1:30 PM AT OLBRICH

Judy Stevenson and Judith Rapacz will present an overview of Orchid Quest 2011. If you are bringing plants for ribbon judging, please arrive before 1 PM to allow time for judging before the start of the meeting.

Meeting Dates

- January 16, 2011-Meeting Room
- February 20-Meeting Room
- March 20-Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery
- April 17-Meeting Room
- April 23-Spring Orchid Sale at Olbrich
- May 15-Olbrich
- June Picnic-TBA
- July Field Trip-TBA

Meetings start at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Up-Coming Events:

- February 5 -6, 2011 , Orchid Quest
- February 9 -10, 2011 Batavia
- March 5-6, 2011, Northeast Orchid Show
- March 26-27, 2011, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show,
- October 8-9, 2011 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show

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Growing Spectacular Vandas

By Heidi Whetmore

Each year I look forward to OGG's Holiday Potluck as it always provides an abundance of good food, drinks, and of course, excellent company! Since I have a great affinity for Vandas, I was delighted that Prayool Inboriboon and his lovely wife Anchalee from Natt's Orchids joined us to speak on "Growing Spectacular Vandas."



Photograph © Heidi Whetmore
Darwinara Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AOS
from Natt's

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Prayool's talk featured Vanda pictures from Thailand and the Philippines, and discussed the most important traits for breeding. Prayool recommended hanging your Vanda outside during the warmer months once nighttime temperatures rise above 50 degrees fahrenheit.

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Prayool Inboriboon
 from Natt's Orchids

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heit. For summer days, he recommended using 70% shade cloth. Vandas grown outdoors should be watered 1-2 times per day if bare-root. Because air movement is crucial to good Vanda development, growing outdoors can also help prevent fungal and bacterial infections, which can be lethal to the plant. Prayool feels a wooden basket is always the best pot choice, and I learned that you can greatly increase humidity by hanging your plant inside a large terracotta pot placed in water. Vandas appreciate at least 70% humidity, so finding ways to increase humidity is beneficial, and humidity trays, companion plants, and even more orchids will help!

Depending on the stage of Vanda development, (young plant vs. near blooming plant), Prayool uses different feeding regimens. If your Vanda gets too big, top cuttings are a great way to down-size without harming the plant--as long as the cutting has 3-4 roots of its own. With regard to pests and disease, Prayool suggested Canola Oil for pests (used during the coolest part of the day, to avoid "cooking" the plant), and advised removing ALL fungal spots immediately and in their entirety with a sterile blade. Lastly, I would like to report that my orchid collection has "magically" grown once again, (thanks to my fellow Orchid Enthusiasts\enablers) and I am now the proud owner of my very own Darwinara Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AOS. It hangs next to my Vanda Manuvadee FCC (see this year's Orchid Quest 2011 poster and photo at right) which is also from Natt's Orchids, and one of my favorite plants in my collection.



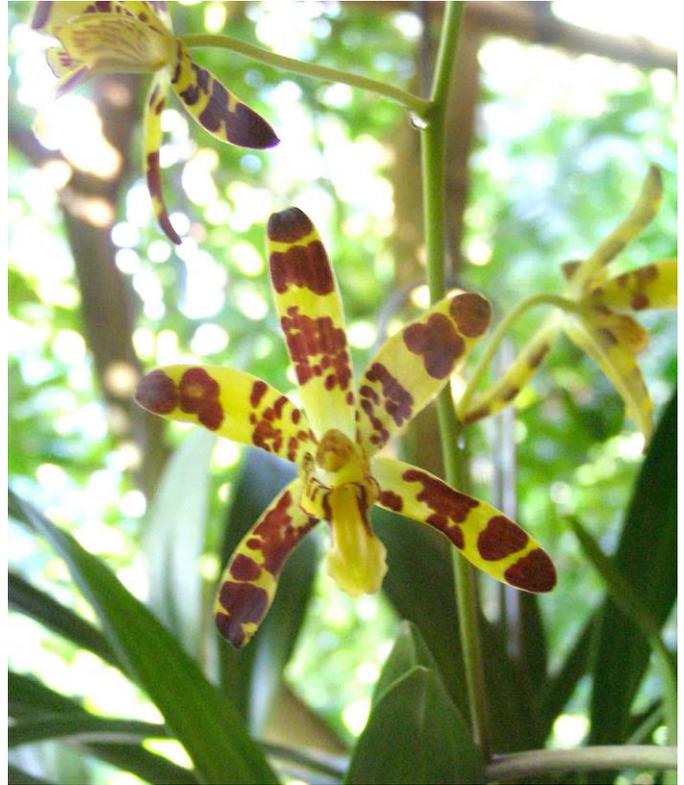
Photograph © Heidi Whetmore
 Vanda Manuvadee FCC from Natt's

Orchids of Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Orchids on display in the Bolz Conservatory
on December 19th, 2010



Phragmepedium longifolium



Ansellia africana



Phragmepedium sp



Bulbophyllum laxiflorum

(Continued from page 1)

last month there will be a flurry of activity in order to get all the details worked out (ribbons ordered, awards purchased, advertising in newspapers and on the radio). Since Orchid Quest moved to the Alliant Energy Center in 1997, there has been a total of 26,897 people who have attended the show. Because we are a small society that means that we all need to pitch in to make the show a success. (If we do it right, the money that brought in from Orchid Quest can help to defray guild expenses through our calendar year.) This month we will re-view how to prepare your orchids for entry into our 100 ft. square exhibit. We will answer to the best of our ability any questions that you may have about classifying your plants. Bring in the names of your orchids plants if you want individual assistance to identify the class to register your orchid to.

To date we have 22 vendors coming to Orchid Quest in 2011. Two vendors are new this year. (Check the Orchid Guild website to see who is coming. Some of them accept pre-orders.) We have a total of ten quilts and five pieces of art work for viewing pleasure. It is good to see the world of orchids expanded.

The Saturday breakfast will again be at the Clarion Hotel breakfast dining room starting at 6:15 AM. We will use the walkway from the Alliant Exhibition Hall to the Clarion and back. At 7:00 AM Robert Lewis (a member of WOS) will divide OGG members into judging teams and give us instructions. This is a very important task for we must get the judging done by 10 AM to let in the long line of attendees into the exhibit area.

Again this year, members may sign up for a boxed lunch on both Saturday and Sunday to be distributed by 11:20 AM. The advantage of this lunch is that you can eat it at either your work station or at the educational programs. You must get your order for box lunches to Heidi Whetmore (hwhetmore@gmail.com) by January 28. (See menu below.)

Lastly, we will leave Saturday February 4 on a festive note as we dine and listen to Fred Clarke's presentation on Mini-Cattleyas. For more information and reservations see page 6.

All OGG members attending the meeting January 16th will receive two 2 for 1 passes to give to their family, friends or neighbors wishing to come to OQ.

If you need a name tag, please notify our membership chair Carrie Wiesman (carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov)

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RADIO INTERVIEWS

- Saturday, January 22, noon, Fred Clarke will be interviewed by Carol Koby on WTSO 1060 AM.
- Friday, January 28, 11 am-12:30 pm, Chuck Acker will be speaking live on the Larry Miehler radio show (WPR 90.7 FM) for a call-in program about orchids. It will possibly be rebroadcast at 7 AM Saturday.



BOXED LUNCH

MENU

- Choice of Sandwich on a selection of Bakery Fresh Wheat, Vienna or Mable Rye
- Smoked Turkey and Swiss
- Choice Ham & Aged Cheddar
- Roast Vegetable & Havarti Dill
- Individual bag of potato chips
- Home-Baked gourmet Cookie
- Choice of Soda or Bottled Spring Water

The price is \$11.80 (just 5 cents more)

FEATURED OQ SPEAKER

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for over 30 years and has been hybridizing for 25 of those years. With over 25 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustain-



ing interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids.

Fred's Saturday 2:30 PM presentation will be entitled "Cycnoches, Mormodes, Catasetums, recent trends." It is an entertain-

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society, including 8 that have received the highest honor, the 'First Class Certificate'.

ing presentation with amazing pictures, a review of the *Catasetinae* world, pictures and the making of the *Fredclarkeara* After Dark 'the blackest orchid seen'. This orchid has received nine FCC's, four AM's and the coveted 'Award of Distinction' on the first flowers shown for judging! The talk will also include a thorough review of plant culture. He will be giving an additional presentation that evening at 7 PM, "Today's Mini and Compact *Cattleyas*" in conjunction with a social event, see accompanying announcement.

Fred Clarke is accepting pre-orders for plants and the deadline is Jan 31st. He offers a 10% discount on all pre-orders and without shipping costs this makes for a nice overall discount

(760) 310-0778, E-mail: fred.clarke@att.net,
www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

ORCHID QUEST SOCIAL EVENT

PROGRAM

Buffet Dinner at 6 pm

7 pm Presentation by Fred Clarke,
"Today's Mini and Compact
Cattleyas"

We are planning a social evening in the Hospitality Room of the Alliant Energy Center for everyone interested. A Wisconsin Tailgate Buffet will be followed by a talk by Fred Clarke. The cost of the dinner will be \$20, including gratuity.

MENU

Red Bliss Potato Salad
Toasted Caraway Cole Slaw

Beer Bratwurst

Angus Beef Hamburgers
Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

Brown Sugar Baked Beans

Relish tray with Vegetables and Dip

Tomato Slices and Lettuce

Condiments and fresh Buns

Cookies and Dessert Bars.

Wine and Beer is available at \$5.50 and \$4.50, respectively.

We need your reservation and Payment for the Dinner by January 15, 2011. Please send your check to: Judy Stevenson, Orchid Grower's Guild, P.O. Box 5432, Madison, WI 53705

PLANT FAMILY TREE

May Help Identify Species Vulnerable to Invaders, Climate Change

From UW Press Release

Professors Ken Cameron (OGG member), Thomas Givnish (OGG speaker), Kenneth Sytsma and Don Waller (Olbrich Gardens speaker) have been awarded a five year, \$2.93 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study shifts in Wisconsin plant diversity. They will take advantage of Wisconsin's variable landscape and vegetation as well as a treasure trove of data from surveys conducted more than 50 years ago to explore the roots of plant biodiversity and its role in allowing plant communities to respond to global change.



They will attempt to develop a far more complete picture of Wisconsin's plants' evolutionary history, their physical traits, and how these affect the way plant species respond to shifts in landscape structure, neighboring species, and climate change.

Key to their project are records of extensive surveys of sites across Wisconsin collected by UW-Madison ecologist John Curtis and his students starting in the 1940s. The team has re-surveyed more than 350 forest and prairie plots, providing an exceptionally detailed picture of ecological change.

"Here in Wisconsin, we have the luxury of being able to track plant species dynamics for hundreds of species across more than 350 sites." says Cameron, director of the Wisconsin State Herbarium. "Comparing the past and present and using some genetics, we will try to predict where biodiversity is going in the future."

The researchers are using genetic bar-coding - sequencing several key genes - to construct a phylogenetic ("family") tree for all 2,500 native and introduced plant species growing in Wisconsin. The tree will contribute to a wider "tree of life" for all North American plants and give the Wisconsin team a tool to analyze how genetic connections and diverging physical characteristics affect the distributions of plant species over sites. Several hundred species are being scored on up to 50 significant traits, allowing the researchers to judge their relative importance in determining plant distributions and changes in abundance.

Better understanding these patterns of genetic variation will also help ecologists judge which characteristics leave plant populations vulnerable to further changes in landscapes and climate. That knowledge may be useful around the globe.

*You know that you are addicted to orchids when ...
... you don't want to go on vacation when your favorites are about to bloom.
... you'd rather stay home with your orchids, instead of going to England (or anywhere else for that matter!) on vacation because you do not trust anyone else to take as good care of them as you would.*

December 2010 OGG Ribbon Judging

First Place

Lynn West	Dendrobium Phalaenopsis
Jeff Baylis	Howeria Lava Burst
Don Fago	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Chuck's Surprise
Audrey Lucier	Paphiopedilum Wonder Isle x Paphiopedilum Yerba Buena
Jeff Baylis	<i>Cochleanthes amazonica</i>
David Kohlwey	Brassidium Longlen 'Bill Switzer'

Second Place

Lynn West	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Noby's Amy
Steven Thimling	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Eric Young
Jeff Baylis	Paphiopedilum 'Greensleeves' x Acker's Peak
Steven Thimling	<i>Dendrobium rigidum</i>
Audrey Lucier	Blc Haw Yuan Beauty 'Rainbow'
Steven Thimling	<i>Ascocenda</i> Fuchs Gold x <i>Ascocenda</i> Yip Sum Wah
Steven Thimling	<i>Barkeria skinneri</i>

Third Place

Audrey Lucier	Potinara Creation 'Summer Choice'
Steven Thimling	<i>Oncidium pusillum</i>

OGG Exhibit at Orchid Quest 2011 "Country Garden"

Plants: Please start getting your plants ready for the show this month! Staking of the spikes should be done as soon as possible to have a nice presentation and to support the spike with all of the lovely flowers that you have produced on your orchid! Clean them your favorite way (dilute milk, lemon juice, water) and make sure that there aren't any pests. Cleaning them and staking them now will save you time on show week!

Please send me your lists of plants by Monday evening, January 31. We can remove plants from the list after Monday, but we cannot add plants. We need to make labels for all of the plants and we need to send in plant lists for plant registration before the show. So need some time to do the book work and the label making. Thank you for your cooperation.

The exhibit this year will have an outside country theme. So if you have some nice weathered boards we could use them. Also some old lanterns and old weathered gardening tools would be great! Another big help from last year was the foliage plants that member brought. Please bring them again this year! We had great orchid plants and foliage plants last year! So keep up the good work and bring them again this year!

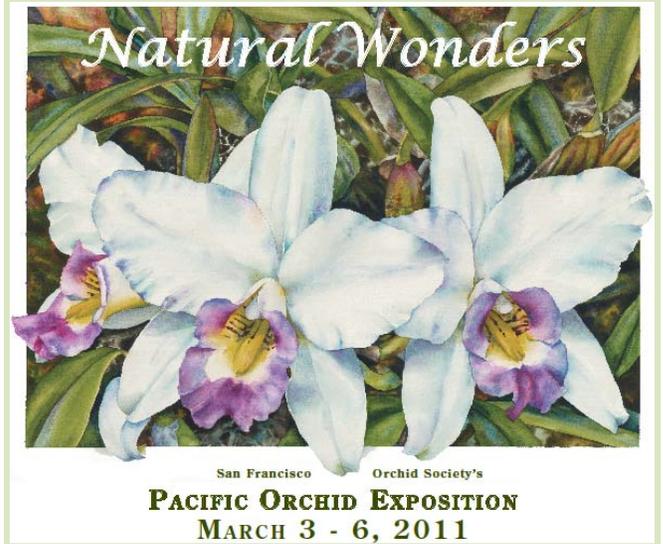
Thank you all for your great effort in making the exhibit a success!

Sue Reed

OGG AWARD WINNERS FOR 2010

Class 0 Heidi Whetmore
Class 1 Lorraine Snyder
Class 2 Sandy Delamater
Class 3 Sue Reed
Milo Gilbertson Grower of the Year is
Sandy Delamater
Guild Exhibitor of the Year is
Sandy Delamater

Congratulations to all of you!



Up-Coming Events

- **February 9-10, 2011** Batavia
- **March 3-6, 2011**, San Francisco Orchid Society, Pacific Orchid Exposition, 'Natural Wonders', San Francisco, CA
- **March 5-6, 2011**, Northeast Orchid Show in Neenah, WI
- **March 26-27, 2011**, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 8-9, 2011**, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
- **November 14-23, 2011**, 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore