

April  
2012

# The Orchid Grower



Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison  
Website [orchidguild.org](http://orchidguild.org)

## NEXT MEETING, April 15

The next OGG meeting will be at 1:30 PM in the Meeting room of Olbrich Botanical Gardens. John Wirth, curator at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, will talk about "On the Quest for diversity of orchids for Olbrich's Conservatory".

### Meeting Dates

- April 15—Meeting Room
- May 20— Meeting Room
- May 27— Field Trip to Kettle Moraine
- June Picnic— TBA

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

### Up-Coming Events:

- April 7, Spring Orchid Sale
- April 13-15-MAOC in conjunction with Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Show
- April 28-29— Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show

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## Native Orchids of Wisconsin

### presented by Ryan O'Connor from the DNR, the Bureau of Endangered Resources

*On March 18, 2012 it was a gorgeous warm spring day. Nonetheless, the Orchid Growers' Guild did draw a group of eager native orchid enthusiasts. Our speaker, Ryan O'Connor said that the state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) maintains a list of plants in Wisconsin that are rare and declining. Currently, there are 336 plants endangered, threatened or rare in WI. At the current time, there are 49 primary orchid taxa (18 genera) in WI. Of this number, this is the following breakdown on the native orchids: 2 are endangered, 6 are threatened, 10 are species of special concern and 1 is non-native (Epipactis helleborine, found in Mesic Forest). This is a brief synopsis of this presentation as it would be impossible to cover everything.*

Several ecological factors influence where orchids are found in Wisconsin. Virtually all orchids depend on mycorrhizal fungus symbiosis. Some species require a highly acidic environment, while others are found primarily in alkaline habitats in Wisconsin. Some species benefit from relatively sterile, infertile (and often moist) soil, where competition is low. Some species occur in bogs and fen where roots/fungi benefit from cool temperatures, as contact with ground water in the summer keeps soils cool, and moving water

(in fens) or sphagnum moss (in bogs) helps minimize freezing in the winter. In general, it is the entire suite of ecological factors that influence where orchids grow in Wisconsin. The following habitats are particularly important:

Poor Fen/Bog: In (Central WI – Stephens Point and the

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

(Continued from page 1)

Cedarburg Bog) one finds the *Calopogon tuberosus* (Grass Pink), *Arethusa bulbosa* (Dragon's Mouth), *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (Snakemouth or Rose Pogonia) and *Platanthera lacera* (Ragged Fringed Orchid).

N. Wet-Mesic Forest (cedar swamp): The groundwater here is often high in calcium and magnesium. The orchids often grow in a very shaded area which keeps the soil temperature low. Orchids in this group are *Corallorhiza striata* var. *striata* (Striped Coralroot), *Platanthera orbiculata* (Large Round-leaved Orchid) which is very rare and *Calypso bulbosa* (declining in WI, likely due to climate change).

Hardwood and Conifer Swamp: In this natural community type is found Lesser Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*) which is pollinated by hummingbird moths. *Cypripedium reginae* (Showy Lady Slipper) and *Platanthera flava* (Tuberclad Orchid) also occur here.

Other habitats discussed included:

- S. Mesic Forest
- Alvar/calcareous shore (flat limestone/dolomite rock with very little soil)
- N. Dry-Mesic Forest
- S. Dry-Mesic Forest
- Black Spruce Swamp
- Boreal Forest
- Marl Flat (moist, extremely alkaline areas usually associated with fens or lakeshores)

Examples of rare species include the Eastern Prairie White Fringed Orchid that OGG has seen at Shackelford's Glacial plain near Milton and *Listera auriculata* (Auricled Twayblade), both are on the state endangered list. October's Lady Tresses (*Spiranthes ovalis* var. *erostellata*), found in dry prairies, is a species of special concern. One would have to travel many miles to find and see all 49 of WI native orchids.

Ryan spoke about some conservation needs that are important for the ecosystem processes. Intact hydrology and fire is important in the prairie. In cedar swamps there is the concern to protect those sites from logging. Invasive species are problematic. Peat mining can destroy the native orchid habitat and finally four-wheel recreational vehicles in wet areas can rut up the native orchids habitat.

For more information about the orchids of WI, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov>. Type ER in the search box, and then click on "Learn About Rare Plants".

Ryan referred to *Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region* by Fred Case and information from the Wisconsin State Herbarium and the Natural Heritage Inventory as sources of his information. His power point illustrations were clear and interesting. We much appreciated the time he put into the presentation that was very informative and interesting.



Photograph by Lorraine Snyder  
Ryan O'Connor from the DNR, the Bureau of Endangered Resources, speaking at OGG March meeting

**Batavia Orchid Show  
OGG Results , February 2012**

Award for Exhibit: None  
SET-UP: Denise Baylis and Judy Stevenson  
TAKE-DOWN: Denise Baylis

**Best of Class**

Sandy Delamater Paphiopedilum White Knight (Green Mystery x Skip Bartlett)

**First Place**

Sandy Delamater Paphiopedilum White Knight (Green Mystery x Skip Bartlett)  
Rich Narf Phal. King Car Yellow Girl

**Second Place**

Jeffrey Baylis *Brassavola nodosa* (species)  
Jeffrey Baylis Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' (Butterfly x papilio)  
Lynn West *Phrag Besseae* 'Big Wings'  
Wayne King *Coryanthes macrantha*

**Third Place**

Jill Hynum Phalaenopsis Sogo Vivien 'M-P0398' [cross is unknown]  
Jill Hynum *Ascocentrum ampullaceum* (species)  
Jill Hynum Miltoniopsis  
Wayne King Paphiopedilum Oto (Winston Churchill x fairrieatum)  
Wayne King *Eria stellata* (species)



Photographs by Rich Narf  
Paphiopedilum Oto (Winston Churchill x fairrieatum)  
shown by Wayne King



Above in the NEWOS display in their show, Cymbidium  
Debbies Christmas; below in the Eastern Iowa display  
Phrag Hanna Popow



Photographs by Rich Narf



Left: This *Coryanthes macranthum*, won multiple awards, was shown by Wayne King; on right, Phalaenopsis Melody shown by Lynn West



### Newos Orchid Show OGG Results, March 2012

**Award for Exhibit:** First place (25 sq ft)  
**SET-UP and TAKE-DOWN:** Rich Narf

**Special Ribbon: President's Award**

Wayne King *Coryanthes macranthum*

**Special Award: Best Miscellaneous Genera**

Jill Hynum *Ascocentrum ampullaceal*

**Best of Class**

Wayne King *Coryanthes macranthum*

**First Place**

Wayne King *Coryanthes macranthum*  
Jill Hynum Phalaenopsis Sogo Vivien 'M-P0398'  
Rich Narf Phalaenopsis Shiuh Dong Orange x Kuntrati Rarashati

**Second Place**

Wayne King Paph. Oto (Winston Churchill x fairieanum)  
Jill Hynum *Ascocentrum ampullaceal*  
Lynn West Phrag Besseae 'Big Wings'

**Third Place**

Jill Hynum Phrag Bessea variflavum '#3'  
Jeff Baylis *Brassavola nodosa* var. grandiflora  
Lynn West Phal. Melody

### Non-Plant awards

**Best of Class, Special Award: Best Orchid Related Entry**

Rich Narf

**Photographs, Color**

1st Rich Narf LC. Orange Passion 'Petite'  
2nd Rich Narf LC. Puppy Love 'Easy Looking'  
3rd Rich Narf Lebaudyauum (haynoldianum alba x philippinse alba)

## March OGG Ribbon Judging

### First Place

Sandy Delamater	Phalaenopsis mini hybrid (no name)
Dennis Pfarrer	Cattleya 'Blazing Gold' NN
Dennis Pfarrer	Blc Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas' AM AOS
Sue Reed	Oncidioda Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific'
Sue Reed	Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh (vietnamense x delenatii)
Sue Reed	<i>Psychopsis papilio</i> sp.
Sue Reed	<i>Pleuro grobyi</i>
Judy Williamson	Fredclarkeara After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl'

### Second Place

Sandy Delamater	Laelia anceps v. coerulea sp x Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'
Sandy Delamater	<i>Laelia anceps</i> v. oaxaquena
Sue Reed	Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Yellow butterfly'
Lorraine Snyder	Phalaenopsis Momento
Steven Thimling	Yellow Phrag
Steven Thimling	Ascocenda Fuchs Gold x Ascocenda Yip Sum Wah
Steven Thimling	<i>Oncidium pusillum</i>

### Third Place

Sandy Delamater	Paphiopedilum White Knight (Green Mystery x Skip Bartlett)
Sue Reed	Paphiopedilum Lynleigh in Pink
Sue Reed	Stelis sp.
Lorraine Snyder	Laeliocattleya Trick or Treat (C. Icarus x Catt. 'Chit Chat')
Steven Thimling	<i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i>

Photograph by Lorraine Snyder



Blc Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas' AM AOS,  
shown by Dennis Pfarrer



Photograph by Rich Narf  
Alca. Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold' from the Batavia exhibit at  
the NEWOS Show

# Oak Hill is Moving to Madison!

[Excerpted from Oak Hill Newsletter]

Rumors have been flying and gossip fills the air. We (Greg and Liese) will be empty-nesters! We would really like to cut back and slow down a bit so we can travel and enjoy life together. This seems to be impossible while still operating Oak Hill Gardens. It has truly been a dilemma for us, since Oak Hill has been a huge part of our lives. We have, however, been fortunate enough to enter into an agreement for what we think is an ideal solution for all of us ..... including you!

We are very excited to announce that as of June 15, 2012, Orchids Garden Centre (OGC), in Madison, will be assuming the Oak Hill Gardens name, plant inventory and business philosophy. They will be folding Oak Hill Gardens into their existing orchid operation. Previously, the Ackers family owned and grew orchids at this location ("Orchids by the Ackers") before the greenhouse property was purchased by the Franz family in 2007. Since the Franz family has taken over the operation, the greenhouses have undergone significant upgrades for energy and growing efficiencies, to facilitate a better growing environment for orchid production. Kent and Cheryl Franz, and son Skylar, as well as Chuck Acker are involved in the existing OGC business which is renowned for beautiful blooming Cattleya and Cymbidium varieties, along with many other genera.

Oak Hill Gardens' current inventory, breeding stock, production plants and entire operation will be moving to this Madison area location with no interruption in the business process. Phone calls, e-mails and website orders will all be forwarded to the new location in a seamless manner.

The orchid laboratory, and over 2500 flasks, will be relocated and set up by Hermann Pigors (founder of Oak Hill Gardens and current laboratory supervisor). Hermann will continue to do lab work at the new Madison location, consulting on the new species orchid production. Greg and Liese will be closely involved part time at the new location over the next several months to ensure that a smooth transition is made. The new Oak Hill Gardens principals, Kent and Skylar Franz, are excited to add the production and sale of reasonably-priced species orchids to their outstanding lines of Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, and Cymbidium clones.

The Oak Hill Gardens website, the show schedule, and commitment to quality orchids at reasonable prices will still be in place. In short, the Oak Hill Gardens brand will still be there, the only changes will be new faces and a better growing facility! (The Dundee, IL location will be closed as of June 15, 2012). Oak Hill Gardens will continue its full schedule of spring and summer orchid shows. Many new and exciting varieties have been produced by our lab this spring - and many more orchid species have already been imported this spring, as well. These new items will be grown and "rooted in" over the next few months, then added to our website and Summer/Fall mailing in late August. Please watch our newsletters and website for exciting new additions.

Thanks to all of you for your patronage, loyalty and support over the years. It truly has been a great ride! We sincerely hope that you will join us in making the new Oak Hill Gardens ownership and management welcome!

Liese and Greg Butler

Hermann and Dorothy Pigors

## **Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery, located in Waunakee, Wisconsin is hiring!**

We are seeking a qualified individual to be involved in orchid growing, orchid repotting, orchid flasking, retail sales, Internet sales, web site upkeep, orchid show set up and sales. Experience in all these areas is desirable; however, we are willing to train the right person. Contact Kent Franz by phone at (608)831-4700, email [atorchids@chorus.net](mailto:atorchids@chorus.net), or mail your résumé to Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery, 4823 Hwy Q, Waunakee, WI 53597.



## Report from the 20<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Congress, Singapore (Part III) By Peter Tobias

Tuesday was a big day for talks on orchid conservation, although many talks here at the WOC have touched on conservation. In as much as there are now 7 billion people on the planet, agriculture, logging, development, and the use of orchids for medicine and horticulture, wild populations of orchids are facing a very tough future. There are basically two strategies to keep individual species from going extinct: these are seed storage and ex situ conservation of live plants. For naturally occurring groups of orchids, formation and protection of reserves is the basic strategy. If seeds and plants are available, in some instances reintroduction may be feasible.

Kingsley Dixon is Permanent Visiting (??) Professor in the School of Plant Biology at the University of Western Australia and Science Director for the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority in Perth (<http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/science/staff/kingsley-dixon>). His web site, which is worth a look, details his many interests. This talk, and I am fortunate to have heard him at other orchid meetings, was directed at assessing the possibilities for reintroduction of Western Australia's terrestrial orchids. Kingsley is one of the people who have focused on the interactions between Western Australia's terrestrial orchids and mycorrhizal fungi. His early work suggested that the fungi were essential for orchid seed germination, but results he showed at this talk suggest that the seed/fungus symbiosis may not always be essential for many of these orchids. The relevance to reintroduction is that if the orchids require the fungus for growth in the wild, then we have to preserve the fungus as well and reintroduce the plants only where the fungus can grow in addition to the plant. If the orchid/fungus interaction is not obligatory, reintroduction will be much easier. Thus, these new results provide more room for optimism that the conditions for successful reintroduction may be easier to satisfy. However, he noted, really repopulating an area with an orchid flora is still not trivial, especially if the area is large and heavily disturbed. Orchids probably require a particular plant community for optimal trophic interactions, and they require pollinators to survive in the long run. Finally, the simple labor and other costs of restoring an area are not trivial. However, Kingsley seems pretty optimistic that these problems, though real, can be dealt with in time. I came away very impressed with the quality of the new biology that Kingsley is providing. Kingsley also mentioned a new forest restoration initiative, the so-called Bonn Challenge (<http://www.wri.org/press/2011/09/release-leaders-announce-global-effort-restore-150-million-hectaresdeforested-land>). This is a very ambitious proposal to restore 150 million hectares, or 370 million acres, of degraded forest by 2020. I'm all in favor of that! Many OCA members will be aware of the San Diego Zoo's long-standing effort to restore the California Condor to the wild. In a similar vein is the following story.

Another presentation from Australia, this time from Mark Clements, concerns the underground saprophytic orchid, *Rhizanthella gardneri* (Italics!), or RG for short. Mark Clements is Research Scientist at the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research at the Australian National Herbarium in Canberra. As such he gets to pass on plans for rescue or protection of endangered species impacted by development projects. If ever there was an endangered species, RG is it. This truly weird orchid lives entirely below ground.. No one has any real idea how many of these plants there are because you can't find them by walking around looking for them. The flowers do rise to the surface, but never break through the leaf litter in the forests where they live. A few sites have been found, one of them is near Bulahdelah in the northern coastal area of New South Wales. The coastal highway is overused, and so the highway department proposed the Bulahdelah Bypass, which would completely obliterate one of the few known clumps of RG. Incredibly, through Mark's permitting authority, the road was relocated somewhat and the clumps of RG were moved, the first time anyone has ever successfully translocated an RG. One can only marvel at the legal protection for endangered plants that exists in Australia and the willingness of the Australian authorities to live up to their legal obligations.

There were a lot of less positive stories. You don't need me to detail these. One further positive story came from Yam Tim Wing. I'm not clear on his formal position, but he is a staff member at the Singapore Botanical Gardens. One of their projects involves attempts to reintroduce the native orchids of Singapore. Their goal is to reestablish healthy populations of these orchids and educate the public to increase their appreciation for the native plants of the country. The project began some ten years ago with the introduction of plants into selected sites as a long-term experiment. Ten years later many, although certainly not all, of the plants have successfully established themselves and some show signs of seed set and young plant development. While some of the orchids were put into remote and protected locations, others were placed throughout the city. Some of these were high enough to be protected from theft and some were low enough so that they could be clearly seen from the ground. With the very positive experience of the last ten years, they are now setting out some six thousand more plants. I asked where in the city I could go see these orchids; apparently in the trees in front of the US embassy there are some good examples. If I can find them I'll show some pictures in a later letter; hopefully I can find the US embassy!

Mais a manh  
(Reprinted by permission)

# FAVORITE RECIPES FROM A SELF-CONFESSED “VANILLAHOIC”

By Ken Cameron

## THE DESSERTS

### Thomas Jefferson’s Recipe for Vanilla Ice Cream, circa 1780

For contrast with the modern recipe above, consider the earliest known recipe for Vanilla ice cream in the United States, which was written by the hand of Thomas Jefferson more than 200 years ago. He recorded this shortly after his return from France in 1780, where he had acquired a precious bundle of cured Vanilla beans. He was known to serve the cold dessert to his guests at Monticello, decades before First Lady Dolley Madison famously served ice cream at her husband’s inaugural ball and regularly at the White House. The following recipe is written exactly as Thomas Jefferson wrote it:

#### *Ice Cream*

*2. bottles of good cream.*

*6. yolks of eggs.*

*1/2 lb. sugar*

*mix the yolks & sugar.*

*put the cream on a fire in a casserole, first putting in a stick of Vanilla.*

*when near boiling take it off & pour it gently into the mixture of eggs & sugar. stir it well. put it on the fire again stirring it thoroughly with a spoon to prevent it's sticking to the casserole.*

*when near boiling take it off and strain it thro' a towel.*

*put it in the Sabottiere [something like a wooden ice cream maker] then set it in ice an hour before it is to be served. put into the ice a handful of salt. put salt on the coverlid of the Sabottiere & cover the whole with ice. leave it still half a quarter of an hour. then turn the Sabottiere in the ice 10 minutes*

*open it to loosen with a spatula the ice from the inner sides of the Sabottiere. shut it & replace it in the ice. open it from time to time to detach the ice from the sides.*

*when well taken stir it well with the Spatula. put it in moulds, justling it well down on the knee. then put the mould into the same bucket of ice. leave it there to the moment of serving it.*

*to withdraw it, immerse the mould in warm water, turning it well till it will come out & turn it into a plate.*

### **Up-Coming Events**

- **April 13-15**-MAOC in conjunction with Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Show, Indianapolis, IN
- **April 25-29**— AOS and Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association, hosted by the Kansas Orchid Society, “Orchids Over the Rainbow,” Hyatt Regency Wichita KS
- **April 28-29**— “Celebrate Orchids,” Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- **September, 11-16, 2012** \*Australian Orchid Conference 2012, Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia.  
Contact: For Information visit website or [aocconference@dodo.com.au](mailto:aocconference@dodo.com.au).
- **October 13-14**— Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 26-28**— MAOC in conjunction with Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, Independence, MO