

December
2012

The Orchid Grower

Meeting

November 18 - Orchids
December 16 - Meeting Room
January 20, 2013 - Meeting Room
February 17 - Meeting Room
March 17 - Meeting Room
April 6 - Spring Orchid Sale
April 21 - Meeting Room
May 19 - Meeting Room
June Picnic - 24th

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

Up-Coming Events:

Officers and Committees

President:

Lorraine Snyder (2014)
lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2013)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Lynn West (2013)
west@mail.slh.wisc.edu

Treasurer:

Terri Jozwiak (2014)
lodijox@charter.net

Board:

Judy Williamson (2014)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

Gary Brendemuehl (2013)
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Sue Reed (2015)
greed@chorus.net

Away Shows:

Rich Narf

Hospitality:

Volunteer

Librarian:

Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Membership:

Carrie Weisman
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Newsletter:

Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net
Tom Cleven
tdcleven@yahoo.com

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ORCHID QUEST

Planning for Orchid Quest

A lot of work for Orchid Quest is done before the show set-up at the Alliant Energy Center. Contacting the Vendors, Societies, Artists, and Judges has been done. At our last OGG meeting at Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery, many of our members volunteered to approach merchants in the Madison area for donations to the raffle table. The largest job for which no one volunteered is **contacting newspapers and senior centers in Wisconsin** sending them information about the show. This job is done from the comfort of your home. The Show Chairs will provide the information to be sent electronically. The survival of Orchid Quest is dependant on having good attendance.

Working at Orchid Quest

As many of you know from past experience, working at Orchid Quest is educational, fun, and adrenalin pumping. Many of you signed up to work before or during the show last month at Orchids. Please take time at the next two OGG meetings to sign up for these all-important jobs. It takes a village to put Orchid Quest on.



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- Trader Chucks Holiday Orchid Game
- November Meeting at OGC Recap
- Notes from Away Chair
- Annual Dues

Orchid Quest 2012:

Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net
 Heidi Whetmore
hwhetmore@gmail.com

Programs:

Judy Stevenson
judy_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net

Ribbon Judging:

Lynn West
west@mail.slh.wisc.edu

Web Master:

Gary Brendemuehl
gbrendemuehl@frontier.com

Liaisons:

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

ANNUAL OGG AWARDS**From Judy Stevenson**

Thus far the Program Committee has not received any names in nomination of those members of OGG who deserve to be honored. If there is someone you would like to be honored, supply their name and the reason. For example, "Outstanding Service" with examples of this service is good. It can be whatever you want to say.

We can give up to two AOS awards per year. The AOS Certificate is now printed out by the AOS in Florida. We need to let them know as soon as possible since the December meeting is when they are awarded.

In addition to the AOS certificate award, two OGG members can receive a special OGG certificate for outstanding service. Lastly, only one member may receive the Orchid Digest Diamond Award (this is a gorgeous crystal). Please get all nominees to the Program Committee so that they can approve nominees.

ANNUAL CHUCK'S CHALLENGE

More than a dozen (live) plants were submitted for judging. Judy Stevenson had already won for 'First Bloom' as her plant bloomed last summer. Steven Thimling won for the 'Most Unsuccessfully Grown Plant' and Lynn West won for 'Most Robust Plant.' Chuck showed his own entry which fell somewhere in between. Each winner received a \$24 gift certifi-

cate from Orchids.

The current challenge, taken up by 32 OGG members, is *Doritis pulcherrima* var *cham-porensis*.

The plant will be judged in two categories: for 'First Bloom' as documented by a photo or a personal visit to Orchids with the plant. The second will be awarded at the November 2013 meeting for the plant that produces the 'Most Flowers' during its blooming period of summer/fall. Be sure to keep a record of the number of flowers your plant produces. The winners will receive a \$25 gift certificated from Orchids to be presented at the November 2013 meeting.

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima [The Beautiful Doritis] is a species of orchid found from Hainan Island to western Malesia. This is the only species in this genus, but it is highly variable.

It was first described by John Lindley in his Genera and Species of Orchidaceous Plants in 1833 as *Doritis pulcherrima*, basing his account on a dried specimen in China and preserved in the Herbarium of the East India Company.

In 1917 Robert Allen Rolfe by chance came across an old watercolor of Lindley's *Doritis pulcherrima* which bore the original collector's number. It was clear that this was the same as *Phalaenopsis esmeralda* and, since it had priority as well as sufficient differences to be retained as a separate genus, the name *Doritis pulcherrima* was accepted. It blooms during summer, requires low to medium light and intermediate to warm temperatures. Its cultural requirements are the same as *Phalaenopsis* but requires more light to flower well.

MEET OUR ORCHID QUEST

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BY HEIDI WHETMORE

For the past two years, Orchid Quest has featured nationally-renowned keynote speakers. We have been fortunate to have two outstanding keynote speakers thus far: Fred Clarke and Glen Decker. This year's keynote speaker is no exception, and we are thrilled that Tom Miranda from the Smithsonian Institution has accepted our invitation to speak at Orchid Quest 2013.

Because the keynote speaker is one of the first things we begin planning for, Judy and I began thinking about our options shortly after last year's show. I always not-so-secretly hope that Marilyn LeDoux from Windy Hill Gardens will join us for the show. So, each year, I extend an invitation, and each year she graciously declines due to her schedule. I enjoy having an excuse to write her.

When I asked Marilyn for recommendations, she told me that Tom Miranda was the first person that came to mind, and that he was both knowledgeable and entertaining. Although I have never met Tom in person, many people have told me that he is an excellent choice for our show!

Tom Miranda is the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution. He has been there for the last ten years and according to his biography, cares for and curates an extremely diverse collection of orchid species and hybrids from all over the world. He also develops and produces huge educational exhibits using the collection plants. Sometimes these exhibits last for four months, and they are typically visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Tom was originally trained as a Marine Biologist, but decided to begin working with orchids in his twenties, when he was living in Hawaii.

Tom has worked with orchids at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

and an extensive private collection at Greentree Estate in Long Island. He is also a regular contributor to ORCHIDS magazine, and is currently developing a new book based on these writings.



Although this was not in

Tom's biography, I happen to know that Tom has a very pretty pet bird named Celia. When I asked if Celia would be coming to the show, Tom said that he wished she could, but Celia tends to tear up hotel rooms. So, I guess we won't have the privilege of meeting Celia, but I am including this picture of Celia as a teaser. Tom often features Celia in his talks, so you may be privy to more pictures of Celia...if you go to all of his talks! (He has not revealed which talks Celia will be featured in).

Tom will be giving three talks at this coming year's show. He will speak twice on Saturday, and once on Sunday. On Saturday, he will speak on "Mysteries of Orchid Pollination" during the day, and "Orchid Travels in Costa Rica," at the evening banquet. (Please remember to RSVP—you will not want to miss this!). On Sunday, Tom will speak on "Orchid Diversity". We look forward to seeing you at Orchid Quest 2013—it is going to be a sensational show!



Holiday Buffet

December 16, 1:30 PM at Olbrich

&

Trader Chuck's Holiday Orchid Game

There will be a lot going on at the December meeting besides ribbon judging. We will learn who will receive the 2012 Diamond Award, AOS Award(s), the Milo Gilbertson Award as well as the awards for the "New Grower", "Intermediate", "Advanced", and "Experienced" awards for 2012.

Celebrate with "Santa Chuck" and your fellow members with a Potluck that will start at 1:30 PM. Please bring a dish to share. OGG is baking a ham for which there will be a collection jar. In addition to the ham, the guild will provide plates, napkins, utensils, tea and coffee. BYOB or soda.

Last year members played Trader Chuck's Holiday Orchid Game [see instructions below] which was a great deal of fun. If you desire to purchase a "holiday" orchid and/or participate in the fun please **pre-pay** \$10 and send the check by December 10th to



PO Box # 5432

Madison, WI 53705

If you are late you can email Terri at lodi-joz@charter.net and pay at the December meeting but she must KNOW by December 10. See you there!

Trader Chuck's Holiday Orchid Game

Chuck will bring 50 orchid plants and display them on a table for all members to see.

Numbers 1-30 (or however many members paid \$10 for an orchid) are put into a hat.

Each member that paid picks a number out of the hat.



Member #1 selects a plant from the table.

Member #2 selects their plant next from either the table, or they may "rob" the plant from Member #1. If Member #1 gets "robbed", Member #1 then selects another plant from the table.

Member #3 then selects a plant from those remaining on the table, or may "rob" from any member that has previously cho-

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NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Ask The Orchid Doctor at Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

Welcome Linnzi!

Chuck Acker welcomed us to the Garden Centre for what has now become an annual event. Linnzi, the new 'Orchid Doctor's' assistant, was introduced by Chuck. She comes with horticulture education and training and will be working closely with Chuck with the orchids. She handles the on-line part of the orchid sales plus has become an expert at mounting orchids and Latin name pronunciation!

Orchiata™ bark:

Orchids Garden Centre now carries Orchiata, a new orchid bark from New Zealand that has some great characteristics for orchid growing. The bark is unique in structure so it will not break down as quickly as other pine bark, which seems to keep the orchid roots much happier. From Chuck's personal experience, plants that were stressed and failing have made remarkable recoveries when planted in this bark. The bark comes in four nugget sizes in hobby bags and larger bags. The size of the pot determines the size of the Orchiata bark to use, with large pots using the larger bark. Chuck mentioned some differences in potting with Orchiata: 1) Do not pack the mix into the pot as tightly as he has previously demonstrated with orchid bark mixes. 2) Do not wet the bark before using. 3) It takes about 2 weeks of more frequent watering for the conditioning of the bark before the usual watering routine can be established. Besides the improved growth of orchids in the bark without having to mix in any other ingredients like charcoal, pumice etc, the bark can last from 6-8 years before it begins to break down. Therefore you can repot into a slightly larger pot than with other bark. Since the orchid will be staying in the new pot longer this is important, saving pots and time. Another interesting feature is that it is not important to take off all of the old bark, just leave it with the roots, thereby decreasing root damage, and increasing the natural organisms in the old mix that will then stay with the plant. There is less repotting shock to the orchid because of these features.



Photograph by Jill Hynum
Linnzi, the new 'Orchid Doctor's'
assistant

The Scent of Scandal, by Craig Pittman:

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Chuck also made some comments about the book, The Scent of Scandal by Craig Pittman. Chuck was used as one of the sources of information about his efforts to legally bring into the US *Phragmipedium kovachii*. The book deals with the illegal entry of the *Phragmipedium kovachii* into the US with information of the cast of characters involved. Chuck was one of the first to legally bring the plant into this country. He brought in flasks and but had only one bloom, just in time for the 2009 Orchid Quest, where it caused quite a stir and earning Best in Show. Chuck knows and has traveled with several of the orchid dealers mentioned in the book. Chuck mentioned that if he had known what was happening at that time, he probably would not have gotten involved in the quest for kovachii! Chuck mentioned that the author said that Chuck furnished him with the happy ending for the book! (Available from Amazon or from the OGG library)



Photograph by Denise Baylis
Chuck with a 'problem' plant

"The Doctor is In":

- *How do I get a longer spike on my Phalaenopsis like it had when I bought it?*

A: The Phalaenopsis growers turn up the heat during the day to 82-85° F with good light after spike initiation to elongate the spike. A drop in temperature of 58°F brings about the spike initiation, but after the spike appears heat is needed for spike growth.

- *What does spider mite damage look like?*

A: Spider mite damage looks like small areas of lack of chlorophyll on the top or on the bottom of the leaf, or if a bad infestation, webbing on the plant. There might be punctate white spots. Mites suck the plant juices including the chlorophyll out of the leaves. Wiping with a white paper towel will let you know the type of spider mite, for if you see small red spots it is spider mites, and black or brown means one of two spotted false spider mites. Mites like warm dry conditions so if the humidity goes up they become inactive. (More information check out: <http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=98>, a video on identifying spider mite damage.) To treat, increase humidity and spray with



Bayer Advanced Insect, Disease, & Mite Control (which can also be used on roses and other

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outside shrubs). Shake up the bottle before spraying. Neem oil and Safer Soap can also be used. Mites are not insects so insecticides need to state that they work on mites to be effective for mites.

- *How can I get an Oncidium to bloom?*

Oncidiums and Brassia need lots of light during the growing season to bloom. The light needs to be high enough so that the leaves are a light green in color. They also like cool nights, especially the Brassias. The Brassias need to be treated like a Cymbidium allowing them to experience almost freezing conditions and when brought inside to continue the very cool conditions in the house for initiation of the spikes. A trick of completely stopping fertilizing might shock it into blooming.



- *When should I use Bloom booster?*

A: Check out the new care sheets that are online from Orchids (orchidsgardencentre.com/orchids). Orchids is not recommending the use of bloom booster but a balanced fertilizer of 20-20-20 all year long. Paphiopedilums do not require as much fertilizer as other orchids. It is best to error on the light side of fertilizing rather than being too heavy which can cause permanent root damage. One half to 1 teaspoon per gallon every 2 to 3 weeks with even a lighter amount for paphs is recommended. Cymbidiums that are outside for the summer could use a top dressing of the pellet fertilizer Osmocote.

- *Why aren't my orchids blooming?*



A: The most common reason is not enough light. If under lights, lighting as close to sun light, 6500k, is best for Cattleyas, Laelias and Oncidiums. Mottled leaf Paphiopedilums like less light than the solid green leaf varieties. Dendrobiums require some UV light.

- *Why do the leaves look bad?*

A: Dendrobiums can have brown leaf tips, oncidiums can have wrinkled leaves, some of this means dead roots. Nancy Thomas found these problems with her plants. She re-

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searched this and discovered that the pH of her municipal water was very low. Sue Reed bought a kit from Paradigm that has the pH indicator and one bottle to adjust the pH up and one to adjust the pH down. She finds that adding fertilizer almost always gives the water a low pH that needs to be adjusted up. The best pH is between 6.0 to 6.5 for fertilizing orchids. Chuck stated that the pH is very important and that fertilizer, and bark breakdown all lower the pH of the orchid growing mix.

Some general comments on how to grow deciduous orchids:

- There are a number of deciduous orchids, some have corm-like growths in the potting media (Habenaria), and some more cane-bulb-like growths above the media (Cycnoches, Calanthe, and Dendrobium)
- If growing media is moss, Chuck suggests slight watering even during dormancy to keep the moss from getting dry as a brick.
- The bulbs contain water but if they start to shrivel then give some water
- For Habenaria he suggests misting the mix periodically when in dormant phase
- Some suggest giving a very slight amount of moisture monthly
- Water when new growth starts, but slowly start watering, maybe with misting at first
- Some suggest starting to water on 'tax day' for Habenaria
- Keep on the dry side until leaves start to develop, then water heavily
- Water and fertilize when in active growth
- High light for Cycnoches types
- Calanthe light levels similar to Phalaenopsis
- When leaves are dropping in the fall start withholding water.



NOTE FROM AWAY SHOW CHAIR

There are three shows coming up shortly after Orchid Quest this year. Anyone interested in set-up and/or take-down should contact me, Rich Narf via email at znarfi@dishmail.net.

These shows are:

February 15-17
Batavia Orchid Show
Wheaton IL

March 1-3,
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Show
Neenah, WI

April 26-28
Illinois Orchid Society Show
Glencoe, IL.

I encourage any of you who are interested but have never done one and/or who are reluctant to do one on your own to contact me. OGG has members who are willing to be active mentors.

Ribbon Judging November 2012

First Place

Jeff Baylis *Oncida Chaculatum* 'Golden Pacific'
(*Onc Charlesworthii* x *Onc maculatum*)



Jeff Baylis *Laelia rubescens*

Sandy Delamater *Psychopsis Mendenhall* 'Hildos' (Butterfly x papilio)

Sandy Delamater *Phal Taida King's Caroline* 'Little Zebra'
(Ever-spring King x Ho's Little Caroline)



Jill Hynum *Odontonia Yellow Parade* 'Alpine'
(Oip Yellow Bird x Onc Parade)



Terri Jozwiak *Slc Acker's Romance* (Acker's Madison x Golden Wax)



Terri Jozwiak *Paph Bell Ringer* 'Chimes' (Chardmoore x Wooburn)



Gary Lensmeyer *Phrag Don Wimber* (Eric Young x besseae)



Audrey Lucier *Rhynchostylis gigantea*



Meg McLaughlin Phrag Cape Sunset (Eric Young x schlimii)



Sue Reed *Dendrobium oligophyllum*



Sue Reed Pleurothallis species



Sue Reed Stelis species



Steven Thimling (Lc Tokyo Magic x Slc Dream Cloud) 'Hilo'



Steven Thimling *Paph spicerianum*



Steven Thimling Brassia hybrid

Steven Thimling *Bulbophyllum dentiferum*



Steven Thimling *Habenaria rhodocheila*



Second Place

not provided Potinara Newberry Sundisk

(Rth Bouton D'or x Rlc Frank Gilmore)



not provided *Stencoryne aurea-fulva*

Sandy Delamater Blc. Hawaii Stars 'Paradise'

(B Little Stars x Lc Memoria Robert Strait)Z

Terri Jozwiak Paph Pinocchio (glaucophyllum x primulinum) x sib

Wayne King Slc Acker's Romance (Acker's Madison x Golden Wax)



Audrey Lucier Blc Xanthette 'Chartreuse' x Blc Toshie Aoki 'Pokai'

Meg McLaughlin Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' (Butterfly x papilio)

Sue Reed *Paph fairrieanum*



Sue Reed *Pleurothallis cf. minutalis*



Judy Stevenson Vanda Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride'

(Crimson Glory x coerulea) mericlone



Judy Stevenson *Phrag besseae*



Third Place

Wayne King Col (Bc Maikai x Geberara Snow Ballet)



Audrey Lucier Potinara Pure Love

(C. Seagulls Apricot x Rth Love Sound)



Judy Stevenson Paph (makuli - curtisii) Paph Maudiae 'Napa Valley'



Liz Wood *Paph Maudiae*



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sen a plant. Once again, if a member is “robbed” that person immediately chooses another plant from the table, NOT from another member.

The game goes on and on until the last member # 30 chooses their plant from the table, or they may choose to “rob” a plant from any member #1- #29.

Finally, after EVERY member has chosen a plant, in order to honor the member who had the # 1 ticket, Member #1 has the option to keep their plant, select a plant from the table, or “rob” one from any member. If member # 1 “robs” a plant from another member, that member chooses any plant from on the table, and the game is finished.

Remaining plants on the table will be available for sale @ \$20 each, paid directly to Chuck. (Cash or check please.)

FYI: Members originally pay the guild \$10 for a plant to play the game, then the OGG adds \$5, The OGG then pays Orchids Garden Center \$15.00 for each plant used in the Trader Chuck Orchid Game. The additional plants that Chuck is bringing which will be

ANNUAL DUES

Deadline for 2013 membership dues is December 31st

Dues are

- \$9 for fulltime students
- \$18 for a single membership
- \$24 for households and for businesses

Dues received after January 1st will owe a \$2 late fee (except students) for creating extra work for our treasurer balancing the books.

Please bring your check to the Annual OGG Holiday Party, December 16th meeting at Olbrich or mail to: Orchid Growers' Guild, PO Box 5432, Madison, WI, 53705.

Just note on your check who you are paying for (individual or household). You only have to fill out a Membership Form if any of your information has changed since October of 2011. When thinking if your

information is the same, remember you are checking not only your address, but also your phone number and email address.

Pay early and avoid late fees.

ERRATA

In the ribbon judging, the last two photos should have been shifted down one row.

Paph Dot McNay x Paph Farrianum 'Red' had a photo of Pot Creation 'Summer Choice' (BLC Cha- toyant X LC Orglade's Glow)

LC Acker's Madsion X C Acker's Angel had a photo of Paph Dot McNay x Paph Farrianum 'Red'

UP-COMING EVENTS

February 2 - 3, 2013

Orchid Growers' Guild Show, "Orchid Quest 2013"

Feb 8 – 10, 2013

Kansas City Orchid Show, Kansas City, MO, bethdoug@kc.rr.com

February 16 - 17, 2013

Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL, mrollinger@mindspring.com

February 21-24, 2013

"East Meets West," Pacific Orchid Exposition, San Francisco, CA, info@orchidsanfrancisco.org

March 2 - 3, 2013

Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 East Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI, orrritt@aol.com

March 16 - 17, 2013

38th Annual Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Wallaces Garden Center & Greenhouse, 2605 Devils Glen Road, Bettendorf, IA, cheken@nbson.net

April 6 - 7, 2013

Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake Cook Road, Glen- coe, IL, goldrose@att.net