

November 2012 *The Orchid Grower*

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org

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@sbglobal.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 Clevon
tdclevon@yahoo.com

ORCHID QUEST SPEAKER—TOM MIRENDA

Tom Mirenda, orchid collection specialist for the Smithsonian Institution and regular columnist for Orchids, will be the main attraction for the banquet

Saturday evening,

speaking on "Orchid Travels in Central America."

Tom Mirenda has been the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution for the last 10 years. There he cares for and curates an extremely diverse collection of orchid species and hybrids from all over the world. We are very fortunate to have him speak to us about the world of orchids. We will sense his passion of

orchids. Be prepared to enjoy yourself.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The Orchid Doctor
- Orchid Quest
- Nominate Someone
- Chuck's Orchid Challenge
- Galeandra bauerii Care
- These Vanda Can Be Grown in Wisconsin
- Box Elder Beetle or *Maxillaria schunkeana* flower?

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

NEXT MEETING AT ORCHIDS GARDEN CTR

November 18, 2012

Orchids Garden Centre and Nursery on Highway Q, Waunakee is open for shopping on Sundays all year starting at 11. On November 18, 2012, it would be highly advised for members to come and cruise the greenhouses before the meeting to get a look at the new inventory and many other plants of interest.

The title of our presentation by Chuck Acker will be "The Orchid Doctor answers your questions." It should be very interesting for us all. Please send your questions ahead of time to Chuck at cacker@tds.net. Of course members may ask questions that day. Chuck will also be asking some questions of OGG members, some specifically and some general, in which he will have us share our answers with the others in an open format.

If there is time Chuck can talk about the book "The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid". There will be an open question and answer session about the book.

Lastly, be sure to bring your challenge plant for November 2011. It is great fun to learn how other members grew their orchid.

NOMINATE SOMEONE

Nominate an OGG member for an AOS award or an OGG award for 2012

It doesn't seem possible that another year is soon coming to a close. We will be entering the 27th year for the OGG at our December meeting. It is always a great time to gather to celebrate where we have been and where we are going. It is also a good time to recognize people that have made a difference to our guild. It is all of your knowledge, gifts and strengths combined together that make OGG possible.

If you wish to nominate someone for an American Orchid Society award in 2012, please send your recommendation to the program committee, Judy Stevenson at judy_stevenson@sbcglobal.net. Please be specific but brief regarding why you believe this person should receive this award. We are allowed to choose up to two AOS award winners each year. Last year Jill Hynum and Sue Reed received this award.

If you wish to nominate someone for the OGG award in 2012, please also send that recommendation to the program committee. What difference has this person made to our society and why in particular should they receive this award? You will recall that Kent Franz received this last year.

Please send in your recommendations as soon as possible so the OGG Committee can vote on the nominations at the next Board Meeting November 13, 2012. The awards will be given at the December 16th OGG meeting at Olbrich Botanical Gardens.



The Orchid Doctor Answers Your Questions

The next OGG Meeting will be held at Orchids Garden



Centre. Chuck Acker will answer questions you might have about growing better orchids. If you have a par-



ticular plant with 'issues', whatever that might be (other than bugs, NO bugs please!) bring it in so he can offer suggestions. Don't forget to bring your blooming or-



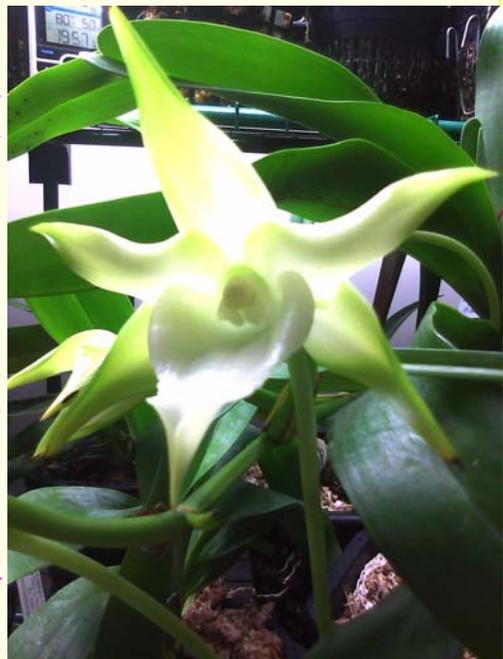
chids for ribbon judging as usual and to budget some extra time to check out what is new at Orchids.

Chuck also asks that everyone bring in their challenge plant from last year,+++++ see his comments below:

In preparing for the November meeting I've been thinking about "Chuck's Orchid Challenge" and how to add more enthusiasm. It seems that every year there are less and less members bringing their plants back to be judged and I would like to change that!

I am implementing a new prize category for "The Most Unsuccessfully Grown Plant." Deceased plants do not count. There will be an additional \$25 gift certificate from Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery for this award!

If you recall, the winner for the first leg of the challenge is Judy Stevenson, who was the first member to submit a blooming plant on July 13th, 2012. The second portion of the challenge is to b e



awarded at the November meeting and will be given for "The Most Robust Plant;" flowers are not a factor.

I am looking for everyone to bring their plant in, no matter what the condition! The future of "Chuck's Orchid Challenge" ultimately hinges on this year's response. We need more participation or we may sadly see an end to the challenge altogether.

Happy Growing!

Chuck Acker

Galeandra bauerii Care

"Gary Lensmeyer brought in a *Galeandra bauerii* that he bought from Oak Hill four or five years ago. It is easy to grow and doesn't need a lot of water, usually a hefty flush of water/fertilizer (20/20/20) once a week during active growth. The plant will bloom starting in early fall. In late fall or winter, when the leaves begin to yellow, watering is decreased to about once every 2 weeks. When the leaves shrivel and the plant goes into dormancy, watering is stopped completely. If the plant is watered at this stage it will rot! The *Galeandra* is then



moved to the basement near a north window and is essentially ignored until spring when new growth starts showing. The plant should be looked at once/month during dormancy to assess the condition of the pseudobulbs. If they are significantly shriveled, the plant should be misted but not watered. Once the new growth appears in spring, the plant is moved upstairs to a south window with filtered light and the normal watering scheduled started. One important tip: Do NOT cut flower spike after a set blooms dry up. There is a high probability the plant will rebloom on the same spikes, sometimes 2 or three times. Flower lasts a relatively long time."

These Vanda Can Be Grown in Wisconsin

Cleo Kiergaard brought in two blue vandae [V Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' FCC/AOS (4N) (V. Crimson Glory x V. coerulea) and the smaller one is V. Pakchong Blue 'Karat' (V. Doctor Anek x V. coerulea)]. to show they can be grown in Wisconsin. To start with, she chooses varieties that are cool growing/higher altitude,



or have at least one parent that is. She grows them in web pots with coconut husk (the fuzzie stuff), not the chunks) and/or Spanish moss. She has them outside in the summer under 30% shade cloth in the sunniest spot she can find. They will survive down to 31-32 degrees without damage. She brings them inside in the winter and hangs them in a south (or East) window. Again, wherever they have the most sunlight. She also keeps the

humidity in the house at least at 50%. They are showered and soaked in the tub at least once every 7 days.

Box Elder Beetle or Maxillaria schunkeana Flower?

It was Friday night, almost 12:30 AM, and I finally had all of the instruments in the lab busily analyzing samples. Time to have some fun! So I rounded up some of my orchids, various fertilizers, the re-cycled aquarium water, and brought them to the sink for their weekly maintenance. Yes I know, I should get a life. I hear that frequently. After watering about 20 plants or so, I picked up my *Maxillaria schunkeana* and doused it with water and while the water was draining from the pot, I performed the mandatory inspection for bugs, dead leaves, new leaves, more bugs. I wasn't really looking for flower spikes since various sources indicated it was a spring and summer bloomer. But then something dark and round caught my attention. It was hard to discern what it was since it was so dark and close to the potting media and bifocals really suck. What was it? A chunk of bark, another box elder beetle? Oh gosh (anyone who knows me, knows that's not what I really said) it was a tiny nearly black flower and another unopened bud. This was really exciting. I had purchased this plant bare root from Fransico Miranda in the garage at Natt's Orchids and I didn't think it would even survive. After potting it up, it just sat there doing nothing for about 2 years. It took another 3 years to get it from 2

pseudobulbs to a couple of dozen. I had to show it someone, right now. So I brought it home to show my son. I rarely bring any orchids home due to my daughter's predatory orchid-eating cat. I knocked on my son's door. He told me to go away. So I showed it to the dogs. Being Papi-lons, they barked at it. I set the pot down on the night stand while I put on my jammies. Within seconds the cat was on it. I locked it up for the night and brought it back to the lab the next day. I wasn't sure how long the flowers would last, but I was able to bring it to the OGG meeting the following Sunday. After the meeting, I checked the upcoming show schedule and since no shows were coming up, I pollinated it. I just couldn't stop myself. The pollination seems to have worked. It's really fascinating to watch the flower changing over this past week with the aid of a borrowed microscope. Just have to wait around for another nine months to find out if the seeds are viable.



Maxillaria schunkeana is a small cool-to-warm growing epiphytic orchid found in Brazil at elevations of 600-700 meters. The nearly black flowers are about 1 cm in width occurring singly from the base of the pseudobulb in spring and summer. This orchid is non-demanding and can be grown in standard potting media with medium light requirements and it's easy on space requirements. It seems to like to be kept slightly moist at all times. I have mine potted in a terracotta pot in Orchiata bark. This pot is then placed in a larger terracotta pot lined with moisten sphagnum moss. This arrangement helps keep the plant cooler and maintain higher humidity around the plant. I fertilize this orchid weekly with MSU fertilizer throughout most of the year, but cut down to monthly from October through February. ~~ Respectfully submitted by Lynn West

RIBBON JUDGING								
9/16/2012								
	AWARD				Class			
Complete Plant Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Exhibitor's Name	0	1	2	3
<i>Cattleya bowringiana</i>		X		Jeff Bayllis				X
SLC Mae Hawkins 'Miya' HCC/AOS		X		Shirl Roberts		X		
<i>Ctnea Why Not</i>	X			Steven Thimling				X
<i>Epi nocturnum</i>	X			Steven Thimling				X
<i>Dtps Long Pride Love River</i>	X			Steven Thimling				X
<i>Paph spicerianum</i>	X			Steven Thimling				X
<i>Burrageara Nelly isler 'Swiss Miss'</i>		X		Bob Lasseter		X		
<i>Phal cornu-cervi</i>	X			Sue Reed				X
<i>Dracula lotax</i>	X			Sue Reed				X



Galeandra bauerii	X	Gary Lensmeyer	X	
LC Acker's Madsion X C Acker's Angel	X	Gary Lensmeyer	X	
Paph Dot McNay x Paph Farrianum 'Red'	X	Audrey Lucier	X	
Pot Creation 'Summer Choice' (BLC Chatoyant X LC Orglade's Glow)	X	Audrey Lucier	X	

ANNUAL DUES

November means that it is time to pay OGG annual membership dues. The Board decided to keep the dues at the current rates of \$18 for individuals, \$9 for full-time students, \$24 for households and \$24 for business. HOWEVER, 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 November 18 meeting at Orchids Garden Center or mail to: Orchid Growers Guild, PO Box 5432, Madison, WI, 53705. Just note on your check who you are paying for (individual or couple). 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 ad-

ERRATA

lycaste mislabeled in october newsletter : caption had descriptions reversed. "On right is Cattleytonia Why Not shown by Steven Thimling; on left is Lycaste (Trevor Edwards x Autumn Sun) shown by Lynn West"

I also corrected the Sept scores by adding Shirl Roberts as owner of the Phal with the missing slip from the Sept meeting. The name of the Phal is Phalaenopsis, Shiun Dong Beauty Queen. Would you be able to add this correction to the newsletter please (from Lynn West)

Up-Coming Events

- **February 16-17, 2013**—Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL
- **March 2-3** —Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 East Wisconsin Ave., Neenah WI
- **March 16-17** — 38th Annual Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Wallaces Garden Center & Greenhouse, 2605 Devils Glen Road, Bettendorf, IA
- **April 6-7** — Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL