

October 2012 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



Meeting Dates

October 21 - Meeting Room
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:

October 6-7, Eastern Iowa Show and Sale
October 13-14 — IOS mini-Show
October 26-28 — MAOC

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NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 21st "Bright Spots of Modern Conservation"

Our speaker this month is Joe Meisel. He is vice-president of the Ceiba Foundation, based in Madison (ceiba.org), a tropical conservation organization with projects in Ecuador, South America that include the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve. Some OGG members heard him give a talk at the Mid-American meetings in Milwaukee last year. He spoke about the conservation successes that Ceiba and other national and international groups are having in the protection of orchids and their habitats.



From Joe Meisel: Search the internet or newspapers for "tropical deforestation" and you will find a torrent of depressing headlines, pictures of trees being felled, and graphs showing how little habitat remains and how swiftly it is being lost. These images, while undeniably true, generate feelings of pessimism that can be paralyzing. But there are success stories in tropical conservation. Committed individuals and organizations are making significant strides towards protecting habitat, promoting sustainable development, and convincing politicians of the need for broad conservation programs. It is important that these success stories be heard. They reveal the progress that is being made, underscore the diverse nature of tropical conservation, and provide a cause for hope and optimism.

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The Ceiba Foundation, a conservation nonprofit based in Madison, has worked for over 15 years in Ecuador to protect tropical forests. We have helped local landowners establish reserves that thrive as ecotourism destinations, and serve as conservation models for the region. Hundreds of school kids visit

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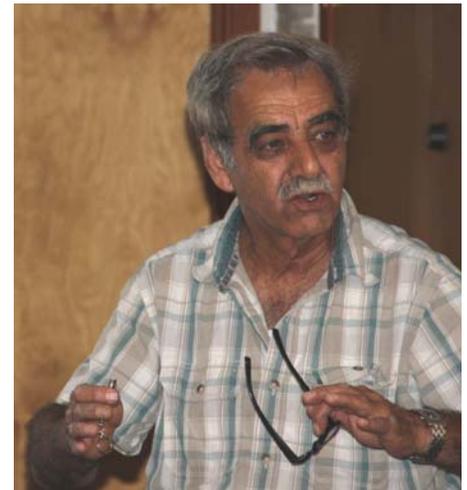


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these sites each month. Politicians have a new awareness of the valuable services, such as clean water, provided by healthy ecosystems. Scientists from Ecuador and abroad conduct research in the reserves, and have made fascinating discoveries, including new species. By protecting forests, and demonstrating that they can provide a reliable source of revenue, Ceiba is helping conserve the animals and plants, including orchids, that call these ecosystems home. While the struggle for tropical conservation is ongoing, the work of organizations like ours has yielded significant successes, providing cause for optimism about the future of the tropics.

ORCHIDS OF IRAN

Dr. Mo Fayyaz is a Distinguished Faculty Associate and Director of Botany Greenhouses and Garden at UW-Madison. He gave a short overview of some of his responsibilities there. This includes maintaining greenhouse plants from algae to orchids for teaching and research purposes for the Botany Department, and various plantings around campus including the Newton apple (a direct descendant of the apple tree that bore the falling fruit that inspired the notion of gravitation by Sir Isaac Newton), planted next to the Physics Department. He is custodian of rare species including the Titan Arum. When the latter first bloomed it was open to public viewing and donations to the Botany Department totaled \$90,000. Thus orchids are only a small part of the greenhouse collection. UW is also fortunate to be home to two out-standing researchers in the evolutionary history of orchids through the study of their genetics, professors Tom Givnish and Ken Cameron.



Photograph by Jill Hynum

Dr. Mo Fayyaz is a Distinguished Faculty Associate and Director of Botany Greenhouses and Garden at UW-Madison.

Mo was born in Tehran, Iran, where his family still lives. When he was a young student in Iran, orchids were only grown by the very wealthy. His class went on a field trip to a private orchid greenhouse belonging to a wealthy family. The students were not allowed inside because of fear of virus whose source was unknown at the time, instead the orchids were brought out for the students to see.

Dr. Jany Renz conducted extensive surveys of orchids in Iran between 1972 and 1975. Specimens and thousands of photographs of these orchids are preserved in an herbarium in Basel, Switzerland

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[orchid.unibas.ch]. It was about this time that Mo developed an interest in orchids but the revolution of 1979 prevented further work. In the interim world-wide orchid names have changed.

As a country, Iran is 13th in the world for biodiversity due to various factors including multiple climatic conditions and high mountains encircling a large central desert. Most of Iran is occupied by deserts and semi-deserts. In the northwest, winters are as cold as Wisconsin with heavy snowfall and subfreezing temperatures in the winter. Spring and fall are relatively mild, while summers are dry and hot. The area near Caspian Sea can be lush. In the south, winters are mild and areas on the gulf are similar to Florida. There are no epiphytic orchids in Iran; all of them are geophytes. [See associated list of orchids on page 4] The areas along the Caspian Sea now host commercial orchid growing businesses.

Currently native Iranian orchids are endangered, some due to the popularity of sahlaby. This is a flour made from the tubers of the orchid genus *Orchis*, including species *Orchis mascula* and *Orchis militaris* (at one hundred tubers equals one pound.) The tubers are boiled, dried, then ground to a gray powder that, cooked in milk or water, makes a creamy drink. Its consumption spread to England and Germany before the rise of coffee and tea. In England, the drink was known as "saloop". The beverage sahlab is often made with hot milk instead of water, and is sometimes referred to as Turkish Delight. Other desserts are also made from salep flour, including salep pudding and salep ice cream.

Sahlab was once considered an aphrodisiac drink, as the tubers are said to resemble

'fox testicles.' True sahlab is now becoming rarer as the orchids are more scarce.



SAHLAB PUDDING

Servings: 3-5

Ingredients:

4 cups milk
1/2 cup cornstarch
1 teaspoon vanilla
sugar (to taste)

Toppings:

ground cinnamon (to taste)
unsweetened dried shredded coconut (to taste)
chopped pistachios (to taste)

Directions:

Combine cornstarch and water in a small cup and stir well. Add milk to a sauce pan. Stir in cornstarch mixture in milk before it gets warm. Add in vanilla and sugar and stir constantly until it comes to a boil. Let boil for 2 minutes, meanwhile still stirring.

Pour into dessert bowls and serve. Top with cinnamon and coconut or just chopped pistachios. It's traditionally eaten hot, but it is good cold too, once it cools off and firms up.

“SAHLAB” WINTER DRINK

Serves 4

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons cornstarch
4 cups milk
3 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons rose water

Toppings:

2 tablespoons pistachio nuts, chopped fine
Cinnamon to sprinkle

Directions:

Mix the cornstarch with 1/2 cup of the milk. Bring the remaining milk and sugar to a boil, then lower to a simmer. Add the cornstarch mixture (stir to loosen up any starch that settled on the bottom). Cook for 10 minutes over low heat, stirring constantly to keep lumps from forming. Add the rose water, stir again, and serve in individual cups. Scatter chopped pistachios over the surface of each cup; sprinkle with cinnamon.

Orchids in the Renk Herbarium Collected in Iran

Anacamptis [used in sahlab]

Anacamptis collina
Anacamptis coriophora
Anacamptis morio
Anacamptis morio subsp. *picta*
Anacamptis palustris
Anacamptis palustris subsp. *elegans*
Anacamptis pyramidalis

Cephalanthera

Cephalanthera caucasica
Cephalanthera damasonium
Cephalanthera kurdica
Cephalanthera longifolia
Cephalanthera rubra

Dactylorhiza [used in salub, found in swampy areas]

Dactylorhiza iberica
Dactylorhiza osmanica
Dactylorhiza romana
Dactylorhiza umbrosa
Dactylorhiza urvilleana

Epipactis

Epipactis helleborine
Epipactis microphylla
Epipactis palustris
Epipactis persica
Epipactis rechingeri
Epipactis veratrifolia

Himantoglossum

Himantoglossum affine
Himantoglossum comperianum

Limodorum [all purplish in color, plant cannot photosynthesize, must have fungi]

Limodorum abortivum

Neottia

Neottia nidus-avis
Neottia ovata

Ophrys [looks like a female wasp to encourage copulation by male]

Ophrys apifera
Ophrys cilicica
Ophrys kojurensis
Ophrys reinholdii
Ophrys schulzei
Ophrys scolopax
Ophrys sphegodes subsp. *mammosa*
Ophrys sphegodes subsp. *sphegodes*
Ophrys umbilicata

Ophrys × *aghemanii* (hybrid *O. scolopax* × *O. turcomanica*)

Orchis

Orchis adenocheilae
Orchis anatolica
Orchis collina
Orchis comperiana
Orchis coriophora
Orchis Elegans
Orchis × *golestanica* (hybrid *O. adenocheilae* × *O. simia*)
Orchis hybrid (*O. adenocheila* × *O. simia*)
Orchis kotschyi
Orchis mascula
Orchis mascula subsp. *pinetorum*
Orchis militaris subsp. *stevenii*
Orchis palustris
Orchis persica
Orchis punctulata
Orchis romana
Orchis simia
Orchis spitzelii
Orchis × *timbalii* (hybrid *O. coriophora* × *O. palustris*)

Platanthera

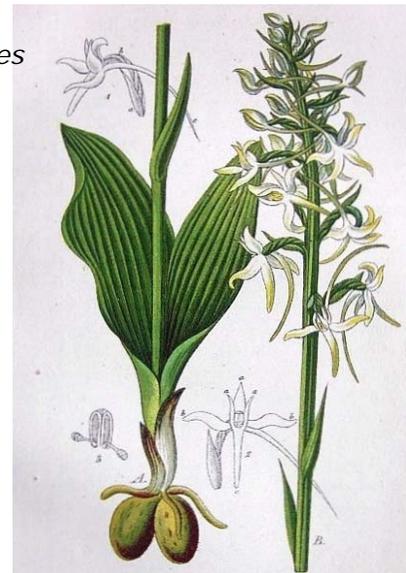
Platanthera bifolia

Spiranthes

Spiranthes spiralis

Steveniella

Steveniella satyrioides



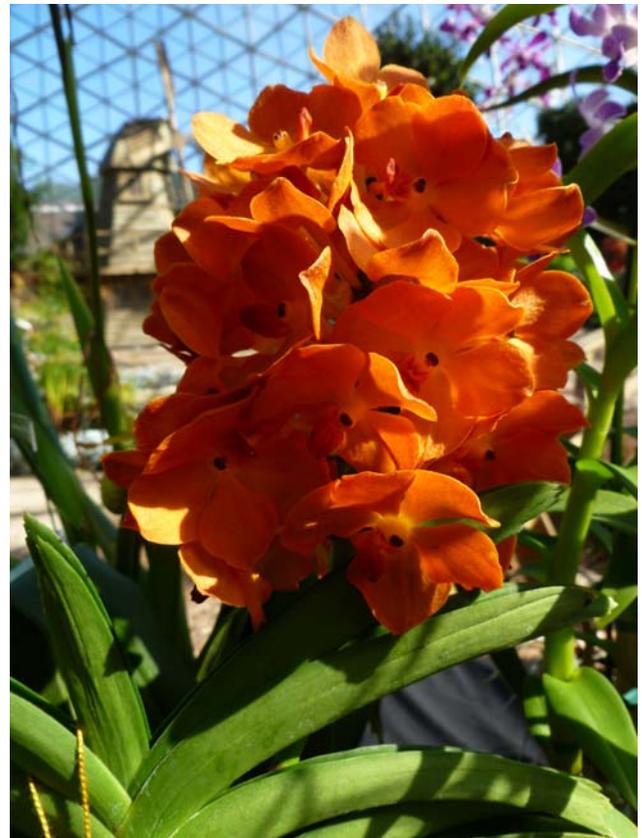
On left is *Anacamptis coriophora*, and on right is *Platanthera bifolia*. From 19th century German publications

ERRATA: Monkey Orchids

Alfonso Doucette a student of Ken Cameron who works on *Dracula* pointed out an error in the September Newsletter. One caption had the plants reversed and one of them misidentified; and in another *D. simia* was misspelled.



Corrected caption: From J&L, left is *Dracula agnosia* (a species commonly confused with *D. olmosii*) from Panama. At right is *Dracula gigas* from Ecuador.



Photograph by Denise Baylis
Ascocenda Suksamran Sunlight (*Jiraprapa x Pralor*) exhibited at WOS Show

BOOK REVIEW

The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid

By Craig Pittman

From a review by Janet Vinyard: Journalist Craig Pittman covered this fascinating story of the introduction of a new and rare slipper orchid as it happened, for the *St. Petersburg Times*. This book targets the general reading audience rather than the serious orchid hobbyist.

He provides ample and carefully researched background into Selby Botanical Garden's financial problems, personality conflicts and the much disputed mission statement. Thus we can understand the proposed explanations behind the hastily drawn, described, submitted and named new Peruvian slipper orchid *Phragmipedium kovachii*. The race-to-publish mentality, is alive and well among botanists and orchidists.

There is a gossipy, insiders' view of colleagues, friends and acquaintances at their worst: thoughtless, insatiable, pompous, financially ruined, self-indulgent, tragic, dishonest, inconsistent and all inexcusable. Pittman worked diligently to expose the inconsistencies in the many testimonies and interviews he conducted. The reader is left with the impression that there were few honest persons involved in this orchid's introduction to the orchid community. There are people who must be very relieved to have resisted the temptation.

From Erich Michel's Talk at WOS Show "On Mounting Orchids"

Orchids can be mounted on any wood, however stay away from shaggy, peeling bark, and driftwood. Untreated cedar planks are suitable. First apply a hanger to the mount using a strong, flexible wire. This can be done by hammering an end into the mount or by drilling two holes and threading the wire through them in a "U" shape. You can use coated floral wire (or monofilament fishing line, twist ties, etc.) to attach a plant.

Look at growth habit of the plant. If it is not actively growing wait until spring.

In monopodial plants find the center of the core of roots. Position it on the mount with the new growth facing out and with the foliage positioned to prevent water from collecting in the crown, fanning the roots out. Use new England sphagnum moss to pad the roots, then tie it snugly on the mount

For a sympodial type plant, determine the direction of growth and then mount so that the oldest is below and allowing enough room on the mount to allow the new growth to grow upward. Use the same technique for adding moss and tying it onto the mount

Once mounted, water as usual, soaking once a week 10 minutes or twice a week. You can mist them in between. Always look at root tips for healthy root tips. The tendency is to over water. Outside they will need more moisture. To remount soak the plant, shave it off, and remount only in growing season.



You cannot over mount.

Photographs by Lorraine Snyder
Erich Michel on left.



OGG RIBBON JUDGING SEPTEMBER 2012

First Place

Lynn West

Paphiopedilum In-Charm Grace (P. niveum forma album 'Sogo' x P. In-Charm White 'Chao Chou' BM/TPS)

Lynn West

Lycaste (Trevor Edwards x Autumn Sun)

Steven Thimling

Pelatantheria insectifera

Steven Thimling

Macradenia brassvolae

Steven Thimling

Cattleytonia Why Not

Second Place

Judy Stevenson

(Phalaenopsis violacea var. Malaysian x P violacea var. Borneo) x P violacea var. Malaysian 'Winpress'

Unknown

Phalaenopsis

Third Place

Lynn West

Toluminia Genting Pink Lady

Lynn West

Phalaenopsis Nobby's Amy (Phal. Be Glad x Phal. Rothschildiana)



Photographs by Rich Narf

On left: *Macradenia brassvolae* ; on right *Pelatantheria insectifera* shown both shown by Steven Thimling



Photographs by Jill Hynum

On right is Cattleytonia Why Not shown by Steven Thimling; on left is Lycaste (Trevor Edwards x Autumn Sun) shown by Lynn West

OGG RESULTS WOS SHOW SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2012

Set-up and take-down by Sandy Delamater
OGG Exhibit first place

Best of Class

Wayne King Oncidium Sweet Ears (Sweet Sugar x Cloud Ears)

First Place

Wayne King Oncidium Sweet Ears (Sweet Sugar x Cloud Ears)
Sandy Delamater Phal. Taida King's Caroline 'Little Zebra'
Sandy Delamater Dtps. Fusheng's Golden Age

Second Place

Terri Jozwiak Paphiopedilum Armeni White (*Paph. armeniacum x delenatii*)

Third Place

Terri Jozwiak Banfieldara (Bnfd), Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'
Melissa Williams Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'
Wayne King SLC Fire Magic (Tokyo Magic x Fire Fantasy)
Judy Stevenson Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckelberry' (*longissimum x rothschildianum*)



Up-Coming Events

- **October 6-7**— Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale, Horticulture/Floral Careers Building, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA
- **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 midamericanorchids.org/meetings
- **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