

October 2013 The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org

ORCHID QUEST 2014
February 1 & 2
Alliant Energy Center
Madison WI

Speaker:
Fred Clarke
Of Sunset Valley Orchids CA

Saturday 10 to 5
Sunday 10 to 4
Admission \$7
2-day \$10
Under 12 Free

- Fabulous Orchid Displays
- Vendors
- Artwork
- Seminars
- Auction
- Raffle

Sponsored by Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
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For more information visit orchidguild.org or call 608-231-3183

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 20th

Leo Schordje

'Building an Ever Blooming Orchid Collection'

There are four selection criteria for choosing orchids to build your own "Ever Blooming" collection of orchids. By using any one, or all four criteria, alone or in combination, anyone can have a small orchid collection that always has something in bloom.



Masdevallia ivanii

An Exciting Revelation! By Cleo Kiergaard

Late last summer I repotted all my potted orchids into Orchiaata. Now it's gotten to be that time of year, September, when I know I should be doing more than thinking about getting the orchids ready to come back into the house. They like their fantastic growing experience out in the wet, warm/hot and humid days of Summer. But, to be honest, there are always other more interesting things to do than sit down and spend 2-3 days repotting and tossing those orchids that were strange enough to NOT like their sojourn outside, or those that had their growing medium turn to gunk! Thought I'd at least go see how many were going to have to be 'fixed' and then think about getting started on them 'next week'. Well, got to looking at them very carefully and discovered there were a bunch that needed to be straightened in the pots, more Orchiaata added, bigger pot, etc. Amaz-

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Meeting Dates

October 20—Meeting Room
November 17—**Orchids**
December 15— Meeting Room
January 19, 2014 —Meeting Room
February 16—Meeting Room
March 16—Meeting Room
April 20—Meeting Room
May 18—Meeting Room
June Summer Picnic TBA

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

Up-Coming Events

October 19-20 -Second Annual Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale
February 1-2, 2014-Orchid Quest
April 5 -Spring Orchid Sale, Olbrich

Officers and Committees

President:

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

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2015)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Lynn West (2015)
west@mail.slh.wisc.edu

Treasurer:

Terri Jozwiak (2014)
lodijoz@charter.net

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Board:

Judy Williamson (2014)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

Nancy Thomas (2016)
mikeandnancy@tds.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 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: Audrey Lucier
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum

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ingly, I could not find more than six (out of over well over a 100) that needed extreme help. They were the same six that I had questioned sticking out there in the Spring to begin with because they simply were extremely unhappy with life in a pot already. I checked them over and I decided they'd not improved at all over the summer, which is unusual. Not any of my favorites anyway, so they are now no longer part of my collection.

I did discover something amazing when I was repotting into larger pots. Something was missing. Believe me, I started looking for it. 'It' was rotted, stinky, 'gunky' or any of those things I normally find when starting to repot. Something else was also missing---'BUGS'. In all my years of loving orchids, I have never, ever before, NOT found earwigs, sow beetles, ants, mosquitoes, mealy bugs, scale, eggs of unknown critters and other disgusting things I don't allow in my house. It was all totally CLEAN—just like when it went in last year. I'm sure the composting of Orchidata with lime had something to do with no critters.

To make sure I was paying attention, Mother Nature had a little 'awakening' for me. I truly was amazed when I found one Phrag I purchased last fall. It got stuck on the bottom shelf of my outside orchid rack in the back and had not been repotted into Orchidata. I hadn't really thought about how clean everything was until I found that pot and took the plant out. It had everything you could think of in it, including, well, you can guess. Then it really dawned on me just how great Orchidata is! Plus, no slivers when you pot or repot.

The only unusual thing I did find on the plants or on top of the Orchidata was small bird feathers. I knew that many of the birds, and particularly babies, were 'resting' amongst the orchids. In prior years they were in there grabbing insects for lunch. This year they didn't get lunch there. They had to go to the feeders. Chipmunks left them alone too.

So, I discovered that Orchidata DOES NOT break down quickly like pine bark, it is not home to unwelcome 'critters', isn't soggy, does not mold, etc. It does what it's advertised to do; 'support' your orchids. So, if you've not tried it, do so, you'll like it very, very much.

OGG BOARD MEETING

The first fall board meeting will be Tuesday, October 8th at 7 pm . Everyone is welcome. Contact Lorraine Snyder for more information.

Wisconsin Orchid Society Ribbon Judging

Set-up and take-down by Sandy Delamater
OGG Exhibit First Place

Second place

Wayne King	<i>Phrag. Fedora Brocha (lindleyanum x stenophyllum)</i>
Audrey Lucier	<i>Paph. Hsinying Agogo (armeniicum 'Nugget' x Hsinying Concon 'Ching Hua')</i>
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Paph. liemianum (sp) (Paph. Liemianum 'Rudolph' x Paph. Liemianum 'Mo')</i>
Lynn West	<i>Paph. Michael Koopowitz (Paph. philippinense 'Birchwood' x Paph. sanderianum 'Fox Croft')</i>

Third Place

Sandy Delamater	<i>Epi. difforme (sp)</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Phal. cornu-cervi (sp)</i>
Audrey Lucier	<i>Oncidesa Sweet Sugar (Gomesa Varicosum x Oncsa. Aloha Iwanaga)</i>

In Memoriam: Jan Rapacz

Jan Rapacz, 84, a long-time member of OGG and a brilliant UW-Madison immunogeneticist, died last May in Krakow, in his native Poland.

Jan was a ski jumper, orchid grower and pioneer in developing a pig the perfect size and quality for research: a small pig that dies young of high cholesterol levels and clogged arteries.

Rapacz's discoveries and adventures with pigs were included in the book, "Altered Fates: Gene Therapy and the Retooling of Human Life," by Jeff Lyon and Peter Gorner. In it, Rapacz recalled that when World War II ended, in 1945, after five years in the forest with his family because of the Nazi occupation, he was 15 years old and could neither read nor write. "My teachers told my dad to take me back to the farm and let me be a shepherd," he said.

Instead, he "studied like a demon," the book said. He earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Jagiellonica, in Krakow. In 1961 Jan received a Post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Genetics, at UW-Madison, working with Dr. Richard Shackelford. He returned as a member of the faculty in 1970.

He lived his life to the fullest with boundless energy, curiosity, intelligence, passion, joy, and love. His integrity was absolute; his spirit was immeasurable; his approach to life was fearless.

In retirement, he and his wife Judith were enthusiastic orchid growers and attended many international orchid meetings, as well as orchid excursions. He is survived by his wife and scientific collaborator, Judith, two children and four grandchildren.



Re-Cap of September Presentation: Growing *Masdevallia* and *Dracula* Species at Home

Photographs by Alfonso Doucette

Alfonso Doucette started growing orchids as a teenager. When he was 15 he discovered Andy's Orchids in Encinitas, CA. He established a relationship with Andy while in high school and learned a lot from him, giving Doucette a strong foundation in orchid cultivation. He continued to grow orchids while at college at Cornell, although one semester his mother took care of them when he couldn't keep them in his apartment. (He skipped her regularly to check on them/her). Currently he is a doctoral student of Professor Ken Cameron at UW-Madison, Department of Botany.

Doucette is an expert in *Dracula* and *Masde-*



Dracula inaequalis

vallia taxonomy, having had the privilege of naming several species. A species he described in a 2011 issue of "Phytotaxa"—the *Dracula immunda*—was nominated for the 2012 "Top Ten New Species" list, compiled by

the International Institute for Species Exploration. Alfonso also successfully grows these genera in his two orchidaria. The Maui Orchidarium houses the warmer loving orchids and cost about \$750. He designed and constructed a orchidarium for about \$200 for the cooler loving orchids.

In his design, Doucette used a plastic artificial Christmas tree storage bin as the base and stored the lid underneath; the top is a piece of Plexiglas cut to size; to construct walls he used Velcro to affix shower curtains to the Plexiglas as well as to seal their edges. The frame is constructed from PVC pipe. Plants hang from hardware cloth. Computer fans top and bottom provide constant air circulation. A fluorescent light fixture sits on top of the Plexiglas, supported on cedar shingles (to avoid melting the shower curtains) and holds two T-12 lights, one warm and one cool, providing light 16 hours per day. He uses a turkey baster to remove any accumulating gunk in the wet base. The structure is ideal for students as it can be easily dismantled and everything can be stowed in the base for transportation.

Doucette has found that air conditioning is very important to successfully grow *Masdevallia* and *Dracula*. They require a daily change in temperature, from a high of 75°F to a low of 60°F. Growing media should be sphagnum moss based. His plants do best on mounts. He uses cedar shingles (because they are inexpensive and durable) that he cuts to size. He drills two holes at the top and threads a flexible metal wire through the holes for a hanger. He has used fishing line but switched to easier to manipulate (as well



Photograph by Jill Hynum
Alfonso Doucette

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as cheaper) nylon sewing thread to secure the plant. He only uses a few strands of moss beneath the mount. He replaces the moss every year in both his pots and mounts.

He waters daily with distilled water, but uses tap water when fertilizing. He waters with the SuperThrive [1] and the Miracle Gro 30-10-10



Masdevallia fuchsii

[2] fertilizer for the first month after mounting or re-mounting his plants. For most of the year he uses a balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer (1/2 tsp per gallon). He also uses seaweed fertilizer and the Epsom salt [3] in the mixes he makes to establish the plants and to water the plants after they are established.

He recommended 10 species that for the beginner that are relatively easy to grow:

1. *Dracula ubangina*, large blooms, 6-8" tip to tip. The sepals are a very dark purple and appear black.
2. *Masdevallia bicornis*, constant bloomer. The flowers are 4-6" tip to

tip. The sepals are waxy, translucent, dark purple with a yellow center and yellow tails. The species was first described in its own genus but molecular studies have shown it to belong to the same group containing the type species for the genus *Masdevallia*.

3. *Masdevallia fuchsii*, pleasant sweet scent. It is characterized by having sepals that are fused to form a tube around the petals and lip. The tube has a little belly and flares at the top into a triangular shape with three thick yellow tails.
4. *Masdevallia leonii*, pleasant scent. The sepals look like a clam-shell.
5. *Masdevallia venus*, always in flower. The stems are three sided and last for several years.
6. *Masdevallia discoidea*, more warmth tolerant and good for first try. The species gets its name from the flat round shape of the flowers. The lower half of the flowers are deep purple and the upper half is white with purple stripes. This is a sequential bloomer related to *Masdevallia venus* but the inflorescences of this species will only last a few months.
7. *Dracula inaequalis*, also heat tolerant. The flowers are white with maroon blotches, pendant and bell-shaped. If you look inside of the flowers the petals and lip look like the eyes and the mouth of a smiling monkey.
8. *Dracula severa*, This species has flowers that can grow up to 10 inches and is a nice species to grow because unlike many species of *Dracula* the inflorescences are held above the plant rather than hanging below it.
9. *Masdevallia ivanii*, smells like apricot, and is not too difficult to grow
10. *Masdevallia maduroi*, the first orchid he was able to reproduce. He pollinated it and when the seeds matured,

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he sent them to Meyers Conservatory (TroyMeyers.com) where there is a free flasking service for a share of the seedlings. Alfonso received 32 plants back.

Now that we have learned how to grow *Dracula* and *Masdevallia*, perhaps some of us will give them a try.

[1] SuperThrive [.05% 1-Naphthalene Acetic acid (NAA) and .09% Thiamine hydrochloride (vitamin B-1)], (2 drops/gallon) has impressed him by stimulating new growth

[2] Doucette uses Neptune's Harvest (made from a seaweed from the north Atlantic ocean floor, *Ascophyllum Nodosum*) is rich in carbohydrates for strong wide leaves

[3] Epsom salts (1/2 tsp/gallon) for yellow leaves

Second Annual Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale

Members:

Why have YOUR blooming orchid plants at an away show....

- Recognition of your GREAT plants and your tender loving care!
- The possibility of ribbons and acknowledgements beyond our own club!
- Points for you at the end of the year.

I will be doing the setup and takedown for the OGG Display at the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale at Noelridge Park Greenhouse in Cedar Rapids Iowa the weekend of October 19-20.

The set up is Friday, Oct. 18. I would like your plants at Orchids Garden Center by **Thursday, Oct. 17 at 5 pm**. Pick up there Monday, Oct. 21.

Send me your **list of plants by Monday, Oct. 14**. (lodijoz@charter.net), so I can make plant labels for them. Include any plant you think is close to blooming or just finishing. It is easier to delete a tag than to make a new one up a the last minute.

—Terri Jozwiak

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **October 18-20**-The Miami Valley Orchid Society and the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society are hosting the Fall 2013 Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting, "Orchids 'N Art," at Dayton Art Institute's Gothic Cloister, www.orchidsandart.com
- **October, 19-20** -- Second Annual Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale, Noelridge Park Green House, 4900 Council Street NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- **February 1-2**— Orchid Quest, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison WI
- **April 30-May 4, 2014**— Orchid Society of Minnesota is hosting the Spring 2014, Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting, Slipper Orchid Alliance, International Phalaenopsis Alliance and the Pleurothallid Alliance, "Orchids A Growing Obsession", Doubletree by Hilton, 1-494 at Hwy 100 in Bloomington
- **September, 10-14, 2014**— 21st World Orchid Conference, "Orchids: Gold in the Green Age", Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Spring 2015**—MAOC, Nashville TN
- **Spring 2016**-MAOC, Cincinnati/Dayton Area