

# MAY 2014 The Orchid Grower

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



#### Meeting Dates

May 18—Meeting Room  
June Summer Picnic TBA

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

#### Up-Coming Events

**April 30-May 4**, Orchid Society of Minnesota, MAOC, etc.

#### Officers and Committees

##### President:

Lorraine Snyder (2014)  
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##### Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2015)  
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##### Secretary:

Lynn West (2015)  
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##### Treasurer:

Terri Jozwiak (2014)  
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##### Board:

Judy Williamson (2014)  
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Nancy Thomas (2016)  
[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

Sue Reed (2015)  
[greed@chorus.net](mailto:greed@chorus.net)

##### Away Shows:

Rich Narf

##### Hospitality:

Volunteer

## NEXT MEETING DATE MAY 18th

Our next meeting is in May which means it is time for elections. The open offices are Treasurer currently held by Terri Jozwiak whose term will end and who will be stepping up with Lynn West to co-Chair Orchid Quest 2015; and one general Board member, perhaps two. The Treasurer serves for two years and the Board member for three. Terri will be happy to mentor the candidate. The treasurer takes custody of the Guild computer which is dedicated to Guild work product. The computer program for managing the accounts is already installed and Terri reports that it is easy to use. The Board generally meets once a month. Currently this is at the home of the President on the second Tuesday of each month but the date and venue have been changed in the past to accommodate new members. Board duties are generally not onerous and this is a great opportunity to discover more about how the Guild operates and make new friends. In addition, we need an Away Show Chair who attends Board meetings as desirable.

In addition to the election of officers, there will be a general discussion with the membership about the location of Orchid Quest 2015. It is vital that all members take the opportunity to offer their input into this critical decision.

Be sure to check your email from the President prior to the next meeting to **verify the location** of the meeting.

## RE-CAP OF APRIL TALK “Homemade Portable Orchidarium”

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Alfonso Doucette gave a demonstration on how to construct a highly portable table-top orchidarium on the graduate student budget. Purchasing the items without paying a premium was consigned to me, with some help from Sue Reed and Jeff Baylis. Alfonso

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**Liasons:**

**Alliant:** Judy Stevenson  
**AOS:** Jill Hynum  
**MAOC:** Audrey Lucier  
**Orchid Digest:** Jill Hynum

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pointed me in the direction and provided price estimates which were over budget [ $< \$300$ ], but we managed somehow.

The basic idea for this design is that it is portable to adapted to a student's somewhat transient life. Ideally the base would be a Christmas tree storage box but spring was the wrong time of year so we settled for a plastic under bed storage unit (from Farm & Fleet) which was smaller



Basic structure

The clear plastic vinyl came from a fabric store with a 40% off coupon. The best find was aquarium grow light kits on-line from *apluschoice*.

The orchidarium of today is derived from the Wardian Case originally developed two hundred years ago for cultivating ferns. Commercial versions are relatively expensive with a 24" w x 21" d x 32" h running around \$750. Home-made versions have seen life first as fish tanks, wine coolers and a boa constrictor cage, which is fine if you happen to have one of these lying around. This homemade version under discussion here is readily constructed from easily acquired supplies.

For successful growth, orchids require transpiration and photosynthesis. Transpiration is the movement of water through the plant. Humidity regulates the opening and closing of stomata and some orchids need very high humidity in order to keep stomata open. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert light-energy into chemical-energy and it

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Alfonso is holding a base. Two are needed, one to support the top and one on the bottom

and thus the footprint of the orchidarium would be smaller too. Most other items were readily available at Home Depot or Menard's.

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can be a challenge to get enough light into a room for plants to photosynthesize efficiently. In addition, plants require particular parts of the spectrum which must be provided by specialized lights. This is where an orchidarium comes in handy.

The basic materials are a plastic basin [to catch and contain water runoff], 1-inch PVC pipe frame [for support], acrylic top [to keep in humidity and transmit light], Velcro [easy open and closure], shower curtains [side and rear walls], clear vinyl sheet [for front window/door], plastic egg crate or hardware cloth [to hang plants], fan [circulate air] and

lights [promote growth.]

The most expensive part of the set-up is the lights which will be placed over the clear acrylic top. The heat from the lights can melt the shower curtain so the lights must be raised [wood shims work]. Some lights designed for aquaria use already come with adjustable legs. The height of the enclosure will be limited by the amount of light available to the plants near the bottom.

This supply list with OGG total actual cost and vendor. This will change depending on the dimensions of the orchidarium desired and what you already have on hand.

### ORCHIDARIUM EXPENSES

#### ITEM

	<b>Amt</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Vendor</b>
1" PVC 10' 3/4" pole	5	\$10.95	Menard's
T PVC connectors	26	\$15.34	Menard's
Elbow PVC connectors	8	\$3.84	Menard's
Shower curtain	2	\$11.92	Menard's
OOK 24 Gauge, Steel Galvanized Wire	1	\$0.00	Jeff Baylis
White Eggcrate	2	\$0.00	Sue Reed
OPTIX 39" x 20" Acrylic Sheet	1	\$0.00	UW-Botany
Velcro 15' x 3/4"	2	\$35.94	Menard's
Clear Plastic Vinyl	1.33 yd	\$5.05	JoAnn's
Computer Fan	1	\$11.67	Radio Shack
12 volt 1000mA power adapter	1	\$14.19	Scientific Surplus
Electrical butt connector	1	\$3.49	Menard's
lidded storage box	1	\$17.99	Farm & Fleet
36" aquarium Grow lights, [6] 39w T-5 tubes	1	\$144.90	eBay pluschoice
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$275.28</b>	

### RESULTS OF ANNUAL SPRING SALE

The annual Spring orchid sale was another success thanks to our volunteers Terri Jozwiak, Lynn West, Steven Thimling, Keith Nelson, Liz Barlow, Liz Wood, Sandy Delamater, Sue Reed and Lorraine Snyder. Also thanks VERY MUCH to Orchids Garden

Center to give us the plants on commission to sell. How very generous to help us in our sale by delivering the plants and then taking back the returns afterwards. Our treasurer reports that after expenses, the Guild earned \$622.80.

# Thailand Flower Festival

By Jill Hynum

I spent early February in Thailand as part of a tour sponsored by Olbrich Gardens. I didn't get to see orchids in the wild, but they were everywhere else, including the airport.



Flower Market

We started out in Bangkok. We walked through the Flower Market on the way to the Grand Palace. There were tons of cut flowers, including orchids.

Our Thai guide warned us not to touch or sniff



At the Royal Agricultural Research Center in Chiang Mai any of the flowers unless we planned to buy them. Most of the flowers are used as offerings at the temples and they're expected to be



Orchid Farm Jewelry Counter

fresh, which means untouched and un-sniffed.

After spending a couple of days in Bangkok, we flew up north to see Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai. We visited several gardens and saw some orchids. Most were potted Phals and Paphs which appeared to be hybrids. A few places did have some Vandas growing on trees.



Orchid Farm

While we were in Chiang Mai, we visited the Orchid Farm which had orchid jewelry, soap, and other orchid-related goodies in addition to orchid plants. Upon our arrival, we all had an orchid pinned to our shirt. Mine was a Vanda. Most of the tables where we ate



lunch had vases of Vandas.

Chiang Mai Flower Festival Parade

I had to do a fairly quick tour of the growing areas. There were lots of Vandas, Ascocenda, Rhynchostylis, and Dendrobiums. Many were growing bare root or close to it. I would have been happy to stay there all day, but it was not to be.

We ended our trip north by watching the parade that is part of the annual Flower Festival in Chiang Mai. The Festival takes place the first weekend in February. The parade is similar to our Rose Bowl parade with elaborate floats made of flowers. All the districts in the province send floats and representatives.



The next day we flew back to Bangkok and had one more day there before we had to return to the frigid weather of Wisconsin.

## OGG Ribbon Judging April 2014

### First Place

Terri Jozwiak	Onc Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific'
Sandy Delamater	<i>Pleurothallis grobyi</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Vanda Tricolor</i>
Sandy Delamater	[ <i>Rhynchostele</i> ] <i>Lemboglossum cervantesii</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Sophronitis cernua</i>
Lorraine Snyder	Phal Everspring Prince 'Harlequin'
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Paph liemianum</i> 'Birchwood' HCC/AOS x sib
Nancy Thomas	Phrag Grande (caudatum x longifolium)
Steven Thimling	<i>Ascocentrum miniatum</i>
Terri Jozwiak	Slc. Circle of Life 'Trailblazer' AM/AOS x Lc Magic Melody 'SVO' AM/AOS
David Kohlwey	<i>Sarcoglottis</i>

### Second Place

Dennis Pfarrer	Pot Elaine Taylor 'Krull-Smith'
Steven Thimling	Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'
Sandy Delamater	Vanda Pakchong Blue
Sandy Delamater	Phrag Jason Fischer
Richard Miller	<i>Paph sukhakulii</i>
Steven Thimling	Dtps Long Pride Sparks 'Everspring Prince' x Phal Auckland Buddha

### Third Place

Lorraine Snyder	Phal Dottie Bucheck x <i>mariae</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Phrag besseae</i> hybrid



The [*Rhynchostele*] *Lemboglossum cervantesii* on the left and the *Vanda Tricolor* on the right were both grown by Sandy Delamater

These are some examples of orchids that Alfonso Doucette is currently growing in a home-made orchidarium



*Masdevallia velifera*



*Dracula inaequalis*



Close-up of *Pleurothallis ornata*



*Stelis carnosilabia*

## UP-COMING EVENTS

- **July 14-17**, Native Orchid Conference, Lake Itasca State Park, MN
- **September, 10-14, 2014**— 21st World Orchid Conference, "Orchids: Gold in the Green Age", Johannesburg, South Africa
- **March 19-21, 2015**— Spring MAOC, Nashville TN
- **Spring 2016**- MAOC, Cincinnati/Dayton Area