

June 2015 The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



Meeting Dates

June 27, Annual Picnic, Lodi
September 20, Meeting Room
October 18, Meeting Room
November 15, TBA
December 13, Meeting Room

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

Up-Coming Events

- **Spring 2016**- MAOC, Cincinnati/Dayton Area
- **September 19 –20**, -- Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show, Milwaukee

Officers and Committees

President:

Lorraine Snyder (2016)
lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com

Vice President:

Sue Reed (2017)
greed@chorus.net

Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2017)
nelsonridge@tds.net

Treasurer:

David Kohlwey (2016)
riceguy1@juno.com

Board:

Liz Wood (2017)
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Nancy Thomas (2016)
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Photograph by Rich Narf

FROM THE PRESIDENT Next Meeting, September 20th Annual Picnic June 27th

Hello all orchid enthusiasts,

Sunday, May 31 we completed the move of our storage unit to its new location at Seybold Storage across from Woodman's



Doritaenopsis Ever Spring Prince Harlequin' (*Phalaenopsis* Golden Peoker x *Phalaenopsis* Taisuco Beauty)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

About Ecuagenera	6
Best Essay, MAOC Request	2
Ecuagenera Greenhouse Tour	4
In Memoriam: Susan Tragesser	6
March OGG Ribbon Judging	7
May OGG Ribbon Judging	3
Message from the President	1
"Orchid Growing for Wimps"	7
Picnic Information	2

West. It was a tedious, dirty job. Special thanks to Keith Nelson, who helped me Saturday in the rain. Many thanks to Jeff and Denise Baylis and Sue Reed. With their help and Keith's we were able to move and organize the locker so that we can actually walk in see what we need. We were also able to clean out and discard old, unused items.

The member auction at our May OGG meeting was very successful. Bidding was led by our former President and auctioneer extraordinaire, Rich Narf with back-up provided by Keith Nelson. We had fun bidding on plants and divisions that were going to new homes. The auction netted \$436. Thank you all for bringing in your divisions and donations.

We are looking forward to our Annual Pot Luck Picnic at Terri and Rich Jozwiak's home on Saturday, June 27th. In addition to spending time together, we will have entertainment from Terri's a cappella

(Continued on page 4)



Carrie Weisman (2018)
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Away Shows:
Nancy Thomas
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Hospitality:
Volunteer

Librarian:
Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Membership:
Carrie Weisman
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Newsletter:
Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest 2015:
Terri Jozwiak
lodijoz@charter.net

Programs:
Lorraine Snyder
Lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com

Ribbon Judging:
Open

Web Master:
Richard Narf
oggwebmaster@dishmail.net

Liaisons:
AOS: Open
MAOC: Audrey Lucier
Orchid Digest: Open



You're Invited to the OGG Picnic!



No need to bring a blanket,
chair or ants!

Saturday, June 27
noon – 4-ish
at Terri Jozwiak's
W11453 Bay Drive, Lodi
/608-592-7906/



Bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice
Use Sign-Up Genius if you wish

Expect Great Food!

(Terri will provide marinated chicken-skewers)

Expect Entertainment!

Ladies a capella quartet will perform at 12:30!

Expect Great Conversations!

Members of OGG and friends

Free Repotting!

Bring your needy plants and a new pot or mounting board.
There will be a potting station set up with Orchidata Bark,
sphagnum moss and tools available AND the expertise of
experienced members to help!

Who should come!

Members, spouses, kids, grandkids welcome!

CASH FOR BEST ESSAY

The Mid-America Orchid Congress invites you to enter their essay contest. Write an essay on "My Most Exciting Orchid-Related Experience" --and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than September 1, 2015, to Doris Asher (asherdoris@juno.com) --winners will be

announced at the Congress' Sunday Business Meeting on September 27, 2015, location to be announced.

You do not need to be present to win. First prize wins \$100.00; second, \$50; third, \$25. All three prize-winning essays will appear in future issues of the Congress' newsletter, The Mid-American.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Doris Asher via email or by phone (517-332-0004)

MAY OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

- Judy Williamson *Maxillaria tenuifolia*
 Terri Jozwiak *Rhyncattleanthe Michael's Charm (Cattleya Green Emerald x Rhyncattleanthe Love Sound)*
 Audrey Lucier *Paphiopedilum Hsinying Agogo (armeniicum x Hsinying Concon)*
 Terri Jozwiak *Oncidioda Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific' (Oncidium Charlesworthii x Oncidium maculatum)*
 Shirl Roberts *Phalaenopsis unknown*

Second Place

- Audrey Lucier *Cattleychea Siam Jade 'Avo' (Cattleya Penny Kuroda x Cattleychea Vienna Woods)*
 Lorraine Snyder *Phragmipedium Eric Young (besseae x longifolium)*
 Judy Williamson *Oncidium intergeneric*
 Jeff Baylis *Neofinetia falcata*
 Lorraine Snyder *Doritaenopsis Ever Spring Prince 'Harlequin' (Phalaenopsis Golden Peoker x Phalaenopsis Taisuco Beauty)*

Third Place

- Jeff Baylis *Oncidioda Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific' (Oncidium Charlesworthii x Oncidium maculatum)*
 Audrey Lucier *Phal Green Moon*



Photographs by Rich Narf

(Continued from page 1)

group. Terri also has Orchidata available for repotting on site. You bring your plant and a new pot! Please bring a dish to pass of your choice.

Don't forget we need a new Orchid Quest Photographer and webmaster. Rich Narf will



Some of the plants offered for bid at the member's Auction at the May meeting

provide training for the new volunteers. Please consider these positions. The web site is already set up and all work can be done from the comfort of your home.

I am pleased to announce our new Board of Directors after elections at the May meeting:

- Lorraine Snyder, President
- * Sue Reed, Vice President
- * David Kohlwey, Treasurer
- * Keith Nelson, Secretary
- * Carrie Weismann, General Board member
- Liz Wood, General Board member

- * Indicates new term

See you at the picnic!

--- Lorraine Snyder

ECUAGENERA GREENHOUSE TOUR

Photographs by Jeff Baylis

The principle operation of Ecuagenera is situated in Cuenca, a Spanish colonial city in Ecuador founded in 1557, and now a UNESCO World Heritage Trust site. Satellite sites for greenhouses are located on the coast at Guayaquil, and in the Amazonian lowlands at El Pangui. In addition to Ecuagenera's huge greenhouses they have two bioreserves. These consist of two huge tracts of high mountain jungle, one somewhat lower in elevation than the other.

At Cuenca, we could peek in the window of the flasking facility; we never got to go into the lab which is climate controlled and access is strictly limited for sterility reasons, among other things. All Ecuagenera's species plants are raised from seed, and artificially pollinated in a special breeding greenhouse. 80% of the seeds that are germinated

here become plants. When flasking, the number of seedlings per flask is targeted for 25-40 plants per flask, no more. The flasks are moved from the controlled environment flasking lab and put here to harden off. The room is open to ambient air circulation at all times and is locked when not staffed. There is no artificial light during the day however shelves have one T4 at night.

The plant media used for growing newly de-flasked seedlings is a mixture of pine bark and coconut fiber from Ecuador mixed with moss imported from Chile, chopped fine. Between 1000-1500 plantlets are repotted every day. Imported cork bark is used to mount plants, especially small ones and these plants can be exported.

A greenhouse houses 'mother plants' of spe-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



These women are repotting seedlings with moss

cies requiring an intermediate temperatures [8-25c]. The greenhouse contains about 3- 5 parent plants of each species; there are 950 species in this one greenhouse alone. Successfully pollinated mother plants are identified with a blue flag in their pot. A yellow flag indicates unknown fertilization. Double doors on the entrance are opened or closed to help regulate the temperature.

As the plantlets are repotted to larger pots, Ecuagenera is switching to entirely moss (and thinner pots) because plants in this medium may be exported. The old media is recycled and used with anthuriums which they also grow. The newly deflasked seedlings are kept in a warm greenhouse with an overhead sprinkler system.

Aside from the parent-plant greenhouse, there are a large number of rearing greenhouses. In one of these, half the space is devoted to nothing but cattleyas of which half are for sale. Dividing the room is a wall made with two sets of wires set 8" apart to act as receptacles for stuffing coconut fiber and media. A variety of types of blooming orchids are placed here to show visitors examples of the types of orchids grown by Ecuagenera. Behind the wall of plants is another space devoted to a pleasure garden with bridges, ponds etc., landscaped with orchids, bromeliads and other tropical plants as a demonstration garden. Several green-



Dayaneth was one of our guides in the Andes. She also works at the headquarters. Notice the blue flags among the plants

houses are dedicated to cut-*cymbidiums* for export. Another greenhouse houses *Porroglossums*, *Masdevallias* and *Draculas*.

Ecuagenera purchased property across the road which once housed an old school building. A use has not yet been found for the buildings although the auditorium is occasionally used for shows and some of the classrooms/offices are used for storage. More greenhouses were constructed here bringing the total to 33 greenhouses in Cuenca. Besides their main operation in Cuenca which is temperate, they have another operation in El Pangui for high temperature-humidity plants [including anthuriums] and a third one near Guayaquil for hot and dry loving orchids.

Ecuagenera trains their own personnel and currently there are 35 people on staff. New employees are required to learn every aspect of the operation from cleaning, propagation, laboratory work, etc. This is done partly to ascertain their particular talents and preferences. For example, one worker is an "excellent grower" and is assigned to propagate difficult species. Every greenhouse is kept under lock and key. A single person is responsible for all of the plants in each one.

Ecuagenera offers its tours to the public and makes a very interesting stop of you are in Cuenca.

Susan Tragesser 1940 - 2015

Susan Tragesser, 74, of Kenosha, passed away peacefully, Monday, May 25, 2015, at the Hospice House.



She was born on Nov. 1, 1940, to the late George M. and Susan M. (Finch) Graetz in Duluth, Minn. She was educated in South Milwaukee and Lancaster, PA. graduating from Dickinson College with a degree in English with a minor in Education.

Sue was a member of the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund where she acted as an advisor, wrote grant applications, helped with fundraising and researched the Carol Beach

property ownership, which was critical to early success. She was President of the Kenosha County Humane Society for five years, a participant in the Women's Health Initiative Observational Study since its inception, and the two subsequent Extension Studies, receiving a 20-year pendant in 2015. Sue was a life Member of the Wisconsin Orchid Society, a newsletter editor, web master, board member, receiving the Diamond Award in 2014.

Sue loved gardening, reading and helping others. She was a very artistic woman and enjoyed playing the viola in the Kenosha Symphony for several years. She participated widely in various philanthropies throughout the Kenosha area, and is fondly remembered by all those who worked with her.

Her sister is planning a memorial for the end of June, more information to follow.

ABOUT ECUAGENERA

Ecuagenera was founded in the 1950s by Angel Andretta, an Italian-born priest who arrived to set up a Salesian mission. As a hobby, he began researching and collecting orchid species he found in the area. During his travels he photographically documented and collected some plants unknown to science. Thanks to his work, in 1968 Ecuador participated for the first time in a world exhibition of orchids in Colombia.

Wanting his work to continue, Andretta found help from a young man who demonstrated a love for nature: Mario Portilla, who would become his main ally for many years. Eventually Andretta continued his activities with his collection of orchids in the hacienda in Paute Yumacay Salesian. Meanwhile the need arose to create a company dedicated to the preservation and marketing of orchid plants. 1992 marks the beginning of the new company which was legally incorporated under the name Ecuadorian Genres Ecuagenera Cia. Ltd., by Mario Portilla and his younger brother José Portilla who was invited to participate in 1991, with Andretta as their advisor.

The Andretta orchid collection was donated to Ecuagenera. To this day, the collection is carefully preserved to ensure the maintenance and reproduction of some species. In 1993 Ecuagenera was the first Ecuadorian company to obtain legal permission for export of plants from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).



CLASS AT OLBRICH GARDENS

Orchid Growing for Wimps

Sunday, September 13, 1:30-3 pm

Ellen Zachos, author of Orchid Growing for Wimps, will discuss the profiles of 16 easy-to-care for orchids, all of which can rebloom in average household conditions. She will also share basic care instructions and professional “tricks” to get the most out of each plant. Not all orchids are temperamental tropicals – many make low-maintenance, free-blooming houseplants. Limited space; register early.

Registration Deadline: September 3
\$15/\$12 member

Ellen Zachos is an instructor at the New York

Botanical Garden where she teaches for both Continuing Education and The School of Professional Horticulture. She lectures on a wide variety of topics at flower shows, nurseries, and for horticultural organizations around the world.



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Dorothy Bertsch 'Desert Sand' (Iliad x Midas Charm) shown by Judy

MARCH 2015 RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

Judy Williamson *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Memoria Dorothy Bertsch 'Desert Sand' (Iliad x Midas Charm) shown

Judy Williamson *Dendrochilum wenzelii*

Second Place

Richard Miller *Rhyntonleya* Burgundy Splash 'Paradise' (*Cattleytonia* Jill Sidran x *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Good News)

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **July 26, 2015**-- Central Iowa Orchid Society Annual Speakers Day, Camp Dodge Recreation Center, 7105 NW 10 Ave., Johnston, IA. Contact: Don Haugen 515-964-1313, orcidman@aol.com
- **September 19 –20, 2015** -- Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes), 524 South Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI. Contact: Bil Nelson, 414-672-6446, gorchids@att.net
- **Sept 25-27** -- The Fall MAOC will be held in conjunction with Chicagoland Orchid Festival
- **October 10 –11, 2015**-- Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show, “Spotlight on Orchids”, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL. Contact: Rose Matchen 847-587-6525 goldrosey@att.net
- **March 19-20, 2016** -- The Spring MAOC will be in the historic Netherland Hilton Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, OH
- **November 8-12, 2017** -- 22nd World Orchid Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador